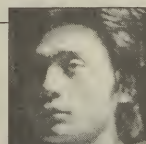


Gay marriage slowly gains support
But more California voters in recent
survey back civil union legislation.
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Flight attendants honored,
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Love during Tiananmen
Stanley Kwan's 'Lan Yu'
brings Beijing to the Castro.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 27 • 4 July 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Picture perfect Pride

by Cynthia Laird & Zak Szymanski

Waving the British flag and smiling broadly, actor Sir Ian McKellen was a crowd pleaser in Sunday's 32nd annual LGBT Pride Parade. McKellen got out of his convertible often, stopping to shake hands with people who were lined up along Market Street.

McKellen, who starred in *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* and *Gods and Monsters*, told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an interview Friday, June 28 that while he had never been to San Francisco's Pride festivities, he was looking forward to it.

"When I came out, I didn't know the language," McKellen said. "They should have a handbook."

The city holds special memories for McKellen, for it was here in 1988 that he decided to take the plunge and publicly come out after talking to longtime friends Armistead Maupin and Terry Anderson. He said

page 14 ►



Rick Gerhardt

State begins tracking new HIV infections

by Matthew S. Bajko

Starting this week, California began reporting new cases of HIV infection in hopes of better tracking the spread of the virus and to increase services to those demographic groups that are at greatest risk.

Under the new reporting system, which was authorized by the Legislature in 2000 and went into effect Monday, July 1, doctors and labs will be required to report to the state those patients who test positive for HIV. Instead of using a names-based system, California will use a code based on a patient's Social Security number, their gender, and date of birth.

That information will be combined with sexual history and ethnicity and added to the statistics compiled by state health officials. Those tested anonymously at clinics will not be reported until they enter the health

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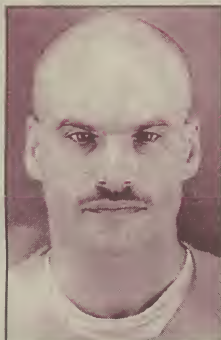
Feds prepare to throw the book at Ezerski pal

by Ed Walsh

The San Francisco gay man who made national headlines last year when he helped alleged murderer Adam Ezerski avoid arrest is now facing up to 10 years in prison for harboring a fugitive.

"I've been devastated," Troy Young told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a telephone interview from Santa Rita Jail in Dublin. "Really, really devastated. My other half left me. And my friends don't know what to think. No one is talking to me right now."

Young, 37, was arrested with Ezerski, 19, in Reno last August. Days earlier, Young befriended Ezerski in San Francisco and the pair became fast friends. When Young later learned that Ezerski was wanted for allegedly killing two gay men in Florida and attempting to kill a gay man in San Francisco, he said he was convinced that Ezerski was innocent and wanted to help him avoid getting into more trouble. The two drove east and eventually wound up in Reno



Troy Young faces prison time.

where the FBI, acting on a tip, took the pair into custody.

Young was already on parole for a drug conviction in San Francisco. He was sent back to state prison for violating the terms of his parole. He was released April 9 but FBI agents arrested him at his boyfriend's apartment on Polk Street just 13 days later. He was charged with harboring a fugitive and lying to an FBI agent. The latter charge stems from Young telling an FBI agent over his cell phone that Ezerski wasn't with him. When he was talking with

the agent, he was with Ezerski on the way to Reno.

Young said that federal prosecutors used interviews he did with the B.A.R., KGO-TV, and FBI agents shortly after his arrest against him. Young acknowledged in the interviews that he helped Ezerski avoid arrest because he was convinced he was innocent and was concerned about Ezerski's safety in light of the nationwide manhunt for his capture. Young said he tried in vain to get Ezerski to turn

himself in but Ezerski was too frightened to surrender.

"He didn't want to turn himself in because he was scared to because of how Florida law is," Young said. "I was trying to get him to turn himself in but he just wasn't ready

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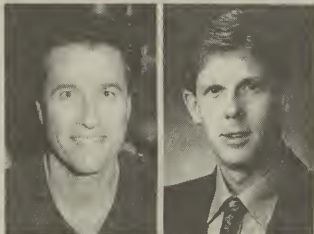
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Up Your Alley Fair may have to move next year

by Joe Dignan

Look out all you leather masters, slaves, daddies, pops, bears, mistresses, and other assorted leather folk — you're going to have to find another place to hang out and hook up at the Up Your Alley Fair if a proposed low-income housing development gets built in the South of Market area.

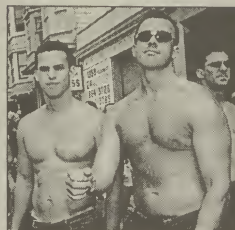
Citizens Housing Corporation, a nonprofit developer of low-income housing, wants to build a 98-unit apartment building on the parking lot where the annual fair puts most of its concessions and services.

The development would encompass the parking lot on Dore Alley as well as the site of an existing laundry that fronts on Folsom Street.

This year's fair, scheduled for Sunday, July 28, will not be affected, but construction would displace the fair in 2003. The building is scheduled for completion in May 2004.

The fair now uses a "T" of streets: the block of Folsom between 9th and 10th, Dore Alley between Folsom and Howard, and the parking lot east of Dore.

Bob Goldfarb, the president of the South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events, the organization that puts on both the Up Your Alley and Folsom Street fairs, said that the group is considering several alternatives to make up



Jane Philomeni/Citigroup

The scene at last year's Up Your Alley Fair.

for the lost space. Those include closing the block of Howard Street between 9th and 10th or extending the fair down Folsom Street an additional block. He said that nothing is certain at this point.

This wouldn't be the first time the fair has been displaced. When the fair started in 1985 it was held on Ringold Alley, near the site of the then-closed Club Baths. It moved to Dore Alley in 1987 when the residents complained about the noise and commotion of the fair.

"People who lived on the alley didn't appreciate the daytime carnival thing," said Paul Gabriel of San Francisco's LGBT Historical Society. "They lived with the nighttime thing. Dore was another beloved tricking spot, so they moved it there."

Many gay-oriented clubs, bars, and bathhouses opened in the South of Market area during the

1970s because the neighborhood was largely deserted at night.

At the time and as it is now, Dore Alley was almost exclusively businesses, "so nobody complained," said Gabriel.

The problem today stems from an ongoing pattern of change in the area where residential developments have displaced businesses in the South of Market area. In the late 1990s developers took advantage of a planning code loophole to build live-work projects in areas that are zoned as commercial and industrial neighborhoods.

San Francisco added about 86,000 jobs between the recession of 1994 and the year 2000, but built only about 6,800 new housing units in the same period. At the same time, neighbors' complaints and planning restrictions limited the number of units that could be built in existing residential neighborhoods, so the incentives and pressures to build anything anywhere were enormous.

The project, if built as presently proposed, would contain 98 units of affordable housing, a community space in the front facing Folsom Street, and 16 parking spaces.

SMMILE, which produces both the Folsom Street and Up Your Alley fairs, is an all-volunteer organization with an annual budget of approximately \$400,000. Last year the group donated \$293,000 to 10 AIDS and community service organizations. ▼

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Fee hike proposal could hurt Pride, street fairs

by Joe Dignan

A proposed ordinance from the mayor's office to change the way San Francisco charges street fair organizers for police protection could seriously hurt the main gay-oriented fairs: Pride, Castro Street, Folsom Street, and Up Your Alley.

The ordinance would remove the cap on police fees for street fairs that serve alcoholic beverages from the current \$2,500. Fairs would be required to pay 100 percent of the costs of policing their events. In all, 16 fairs around the city would be affected, from the mammoth Pride celebration, which organizers say drew nearly a million participants last weekend, to the tiny Nihonmachi street fair in Japantown.

The mayor's director of finance, Ben Rosenfield, said that the rationale behind the increase was that these events have the greatest capacity to raise revenues by increasing the fees vendors pay the organizers. They are also, he said, the ones that need the most policing.

The mayor's 2002-2003 lean-times budget plan depends on increased fees for services to balance. This ordinance is one of many such fee hike proposals.

San Francisco Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington said that he estimates Pride's police bill would go from \$2,500 to about

\$60,000 if the measure were enacted.

The ordinance passed out of the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee on Tuesday, June 25 by a unanimous vote and is headed for the full board on Monday, July 8. Supervisor Mark Leno introduced a request at the July 1 board meeting asking the city's legislative analyst to look into the situation.

"Pride will be in a considerable difficulty," Witherington said. He said that \$60,000 represents 6 percent of the organization's \$1 million budget. He expects the costs will have to be made up either from increased gate fees "which nobody wants, or we could cut a stage or two. Either way, someone's going to be unhappy."

Another alternative would be to increase commercial sponsorship of the Pride festivities. The Pride Committee has already been criticized in some quarters for permitting over-commercialization of San Francisco's Pride celebration.

At last weekend's parade, demonstrators calling themselves "Gay Shame" protested at the corner of 8th and Market - objecting to the "assimilationist politics" of the Pride celebration.

While the Pride Committee may be able to come up with the money to pay the police bill, the Castro Street Fair won't.

Steve Gaynes, president of the Castro Street Fair, said that the fair would have to stop selling liquor to avoid the fee increase, because the

police fees would be greater than the revenues from beer sales. Fairs that do not serve alcohol will be exempt from the increase and their fees will remain capped at \$2,500.

Gaynes said that the fee hike would have the unintended effect of taking the profit from the beer booths at the fair, half of which is now donated to charity, and giving it to the bar owners on the street - who would still be permitted to sell liquor.

The Castro Street Fair gave away about \$60,000 last year to 26 charities.

For the South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events, the organization that runs both the Folsom Street and Up Your Alley fairs, the total estimated cost to the city for police protection in 2001 was approximately \$36,000. Last year, the two fairs donated \$293,000 to 10 charities. According to Bob Goldfarb, SMMILE president, the additional money will come out of the amount that the two South of Market fairs donate to the charities.

Witherington conceded that the situation is unbalanced. "That they [the city] could get only \$2,500 is probably unfair, but to go from one end of the pendulum to the other is severe," he said.

The Pride Committee said that the celebration drew a crowd of nearly one million people last weekend and contributed \$150 million to the city's economy. ▼



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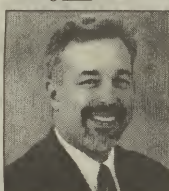
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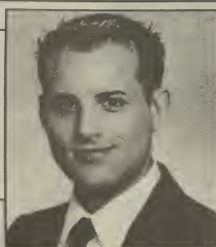
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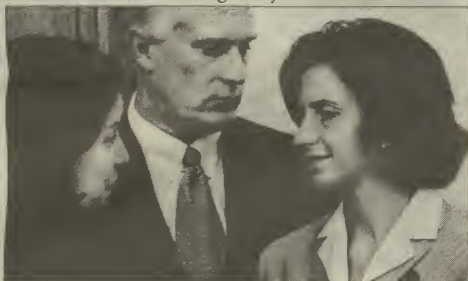
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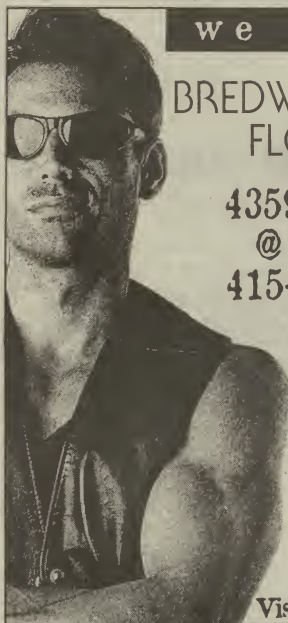
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Pride crowds bolster Castro businesses

by Matthew S. Bajko

While the crowds at Pride may not have been quite as international as in past years, visitors still flooded into the city helping to boost businesses in the Castro.

For merchants who have weathered through the tanking of the economy and a slump in tourism since September 11, business over Pride weekend helped to make up for a less than stellar year so far.

"Business was up definitely," said Patrick Batt, owner of Auto Erotica and Mercury Mail Order. "In view of the fact it's been down, any uptick would have been noticeable."

Batt, president of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, said most business owners he spoke with throughout the weekend were pleased with the weekend's sales. With the throngs of people who turned up for the Dyke March and Pink Saturday party, many merchants found their establishments overflowing with customers.

"Certainly on Saturday night, if you had a food business or bar business, you were making money," said Batt. "That was obvious. They were out the doors in the restaurants and bars."

The attendance count for Pink Saturday is still not official, but



The Barbie Support Group at this year's Pride Parade.

the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence expect to pull in more than the \$28,000 they raised last year for local nonprofits.

"I think it was a larger crowd and donations are up over last year," said Sister Camille Leon, organizer of the event. "There were some international tourists. But honestly, it seemed a little bit younger of a crowd to me this year."

Unlike years past, the crowds

did not flee the Castro on Sunday for the festivities in the Civic Center. Throughout the day, the Castro was filled with people.

"It seemed like there were a lot more people in the Castro than in the past. Often with the party downtown, the Castro is like a ghost town," said Eric Roos, co-owner of Nancy Boy on Market Street. "But there were a lot of people in the streets."

Roos said his store, which opened in May, had its biggest weekend ever due to Pride.

"More importantly, we closed out our second month in business having sold more than we thought we would have sold in six months," he said. "We attribute that to a great location and the community being great to us. But with the film festival and tourists the last few weeks, our business also took off."

Although some tourist-related businesses did report a drop-off in business, other establishments said Pride was no different than any other year.

"Our business was pretty consistent with all the previous Prides. We are just not that big of a place so we usually fill up months in advance. And that certainly was true this year," said Bill Boeddiker, co-owner of The Parker House bed and breakfast. "We had a nice group this year and that is kind of continuing through the Fourth of July weekend." ▼



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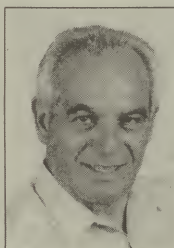
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Members of the Association of Flight Attendants, United Council 11, received the California Alliance for Pride and Equality's CAPE Crusader Labor Award for their steadfastness in insisting that United Airlines comply with San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance. At the annual CAPE luncheon, held June 28 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown San Francisco, the legal team that defended the ordinance was honored, as were current and former Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Leslie Katz, and Susan Leal, who co-sponsored the measure. Former CAPE Executive Director Jean Harris was also recognized for her service to the statewide LGBT lobbying group.

City wins last objection to equal benefits law

by Joe Dignan

The five-year court battle over San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance ended on Monday, June 24 when a federal judge ruled in favor of the city on the plaintiffs' last objection to the law.

The plaintiffs, a consortium of airlines, Federal Express, and S.D. Myers, an Ohio-based electrical equipment manufacturer with ties to the religious right, have 30 days to appeal the ruling.

The battle ended with a whimper instead of a bang. The plaintiffs had contended that AB25, California's gay rights bill, was intended to preempt San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance.

"They made about the stupidest argument you can think of," said San Francisco's chief deputy city attorney Terry Stuart. They had said that because AB25 preempts local laws that create domestic partner registries by making a statewide registry, it should also preempt laws about benefits.

The court found that the equal benefits ordinance is simply a law about contracting and is not affected by AB25.

"The ordinance does not create domestic partnerships or purport to regulate domestic partnerships," wrote U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken in her decision. "It is simply a non-discrimination provision."

San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance requires all businesses contracting with the city to provide registered domestic partners the same benefits they give to married couples.

AB25, California's gay rights bill enacted in January, gives registered domestic partners about 15 marriage-like rights including unemployment benefits, health insurance benefits, adoption rights for each other's children, and the right to sue for wrongful

death of a partner.

San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance was passed by the Board of Supervisors on November 4, 1996. Two months before it was scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 1997, the airlines filed suit, claiming that federal law about employee benefits preempted the ordinance and that San Francisco should not be allowed to make a law that had national impact.

The court ruled, in April 1998, that San Francisco could require that some benefits, such as travel perks and bereavement leave, be given to domestic partners. The city lost in part of the decision when the court found that federal law does prevent San Francisco from requiring companies doing business with the city to give health insurance and pension benefits to domestic partners.

Meanwhile, gay rights activists, led by Jeff Sheehy, started a boycott of United Airlines, one of the main plaintiffs. The campaign, dubbed "United against United," Sheehy said "was a pincer movement. They were stuck in a vise. They had legal pressure and they had business pressure."

Activists, including San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, tore up their United frequent flyer cards on the steps of City Hall. The activists staged demonstrations at United ticket offices. In one memorable incident that took place in downtown San Francisco, Gilbert Baker, the designer of the rainbow flag, made costumes for the protesters, dressing them as Tinky Winkys. That picket took place shortly after Jerry Falwell declared that the purple Teletubby television character was gay.

"I remember the police loading the protesters into a van," Sheehy said. "Twelve Tinky Winkys, Gilbert among them, in the back of a paddy wagon - even the cops had to laugh."

The boycott was not given

much coverage in the mainstream media, but, according to Sheehy, gay and lesbian publications, including this newspaper, spread word of the boycott around the gay community.

United has never disclosed any information about the impact of the boycott on its finances, but "on the last Friday in July of 1999," Sheehy said, "United caved," and announced it would offer benefits to domestic partners.

Other airlines and businesses quickly followed. Today approximately 4,000 companies across the country provide domestic partner benefits, including the big three auto makers, 30 percent of Fortune 500 companies, and even the Catholic Church in San Francisco.

United started a major public relations campaign called "United with Pride" to try and win back disaffected gay and lesbian customers.

The most conspicuous holdout is the Salvation Army, which still refuses to offer benefits to domestic partners. The Army lost almost \$3 million in city contracts as a result.

On November 1, 2001, the western region of the Army decided to give benefits, but was countermanded by the national office a few weeks later.

"I never thought we'd win," Sheehy said. "But if you drop a pebble into the water the ripples can become waves that can become a tsunami that completely changes an entire industry." ▼

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Taking God out of the Pledge

We were as stunned as anyone last week when a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional because of the phrase "under God." While we don't think the controversial ruling will be upheld on appeal, nevertheless we believe it was the right decision; having the phrase "under God" in our national pledge does promote religion, while the U.S. Constitution clearly calls for separation between church and state.

We are in the minority on this issue, if the last several days' of commentary and righteous indignation by politicians and others is any indication. And, no, we don't see the Federal Reserve willing to remove "In God We Trust" from the country's currency anytime soon. But last week's ruling—authored by Judge Alfred Goodwin, a Nixon appointee—has sparked debate on the issue; and the more we think about it, the more we are convinced that the federal appeals court made the correct decision.

It's important to realize that while many of us grew up with the Pledge containing "under God," that wasn't always the case. In fact, Congress added those two words in 1954, at the height of the McCarthy era in response to the anti-Communism sentiment that permeated the nation. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation, he said, "From this day forward, the millions of schoolchildren will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty."

That sounds like the mixing of state and religion to us; and that's not what this country is about.

As we celebrate our independence this July 4—in the midst of the war on terrorism and the increased patriotism sweeping the country—we do not believe that citizens must utter "under God" in the Pledge in order to "be 100 percent American." One can be firmly behind this country without

religion, and the Constitution gives us that right. As a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State said last week, the Pledge of Allegiance without "under God" got the country through two world wars and the Great Depression.

The Bush administration has maintained from the beginning that the war against terrorism is not aimed at Islam or any other religion. Yet, at the same time, the administration has argued that an obstacle to consensus is that the governments of many Islamic countries are heavily influenced by religion, which, in the case of the Taliban, oppressed women and non-conformists. We agree with that sentiment,

and when we look at our own country, we see that our politics is infused with religion in myriad ways: the oath of office administered to elected leaders contains references to God; the Supreme Court opens its sessions with reference to God; the Pledge of Allegiance contains the reference to God; and much anti-gay legislation is influenced by politicians linking their own perceptions of morality to religion.

While the Pledge ruling won't go into effect (Goodwin issued a stay on his own decision after the firestorm of criticism, effectively putting the matter on hold) we commend the appeals court panel for bucking conventional wisdom in its decision that attempts to get God out of politics. ▼



Editorial



After the bishops' conference

by Reverend Troy D. Perry

I recently watched with great fascination as 300 men (yes, all men) gathered in Dallas, Texas for the meeting of the U.S. bishops to address the growing scandal of child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church.

I felt a sense of hope that the issue was being debated—and a sense of anger that along with hundreds or even thousands of innocent children, truth has been another casualty of this scandal.

Let me quickly make a disclaimer. I'm not a dispassionate observer. I know something about this subject first hand. As a child, I was raped by a pedophile. So I'm not speaking out of theory; I know the pain, confusion, and trust issues that arise from this type of sexual violation.

Here's what I know from my experience—and from my 30 years of activism in both the GLBT and faith communities. There are three truths here that we need to voice over and over and over.

- Child sexual abuse is not a gay issue. Every credible study has confirmed that pedophilia is not a gay issue. Five respected professional organizations have public policies stating that there is no correlation between homosexuality and child abuse: the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, American Academy of Child Psychiatrists, American Psychiatric Association, and Child Welfare League of America.

- Research study after research study has concluded that the overwhelming majority of child sexual abuse is committed by heterosexual men—the most often cited statistic is that more than 80 percent of all child sexual abuse involves a heterosexual perpetrator.

- Repressive systems never lead to responsible sexuality. The Roman Catholic clergy system is one of repression of the God-given gift of human sexuality. When human beings are forced to repress and deny

God's beautiful and innate gift of sex, they will invariably find unhealthy expressions.

And that's the story with the current scandal. The story of the child sex abuse scandal has been one of repression, denial, cover-up, and moving predatory priests to new places of ministry without informing local parishes. That is a breeding ground for irresponsible and unhealthy sexuality.

- All faith groups should learn from the gay community. Openness, acceptance, and affirmation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered orientations always lead to emotional and spiritual health. Always.

And in many ways, the gay community has been a leader in this regard.

- In 1985, long before the current crisis, our predominantly GLBT Metropolitan Community Churches adopted a policy statement that all sexual activity between adults and minors is inherently evil, coercive, and not to be condoned.

- During the 34-year existence of MCC churches, there have been only two cases involving clergy misconduct with minors. Let me quickly say, I use the term "only" to draw a stark contrast with the scandal unfolding in some other faith communities—not to excuse anyone's misconduct. And in both cases, MCC officials reported the abuse to civil authorities, fully cooperated with authorities—and in each case clergy credentials were removed. That's a far different story than the repression, denial, and cover-up unfolding in the Roman Catholic Church.

- You have a right to know that the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Churches have never had a claim for child sexual abuse and never paid damages for child sexual abuse. Never. In the June 15 edition of "The Christian Century," Charlie Cutler of Tom Cutler and Associates, an insurance brokerage that serves 2,000 churches of varied denominations noted, "I've worked with the MCC since 1978, and in

that time there have been zero claims against the church. They have very, very aggressive policies on these issues, with police background checks and policies such as the two-adult rule when supervising minors."

- MCC has worked with the GLBT community to develop a healthy system of sexual ethics. Let's be honest: Far too often the Judeo-Christian culture has contributed to sex negativity.

- MCC, in conjunction with the GLBT community, has developed a positive sexual ethic that balances desire with our emotional, physical, sexual, and spiritual selves, while preserving and honoring mutuality and consent.

- MCC has gone even further. We've adopted a Clergy Code of Conduct and a Sexual Misconduct Policy that not only embodies these ethics—it's an open document, available to everyone. (If you want a copy, simply write to me at info@MCCchurch.org.)

Sometimes you have to repeat a message over and over until people "get it." I'm asking my GLBT friends and their enlightened allies to join me in repeating these three messages: Child sexual abuse is not a gay issue. Repressive systems never lead to responsible sexuality. All faith groups should learn from the GLBT communities.

In the aftermath of the Dallas meeting of the Roman Catholic Bishops, I'm feeling hopeful. But until a new breeze of openness, acceptance, and affirmation blows through the Roman Catholic Church, and until we see the church put actions to their words, I'm in solidarity with the millions of people who are casting a wary eye on all faith groups that continue to scapegoat God's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender children. ▼

The Reverend Troy D. Perry is founder and moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches.

LETTERS

Life in the 1950s

How timely that the Film Festival and KQED are showing *Hope Along the Wind* about the early gay rights movement being started by a "godless" communist. At the same time the Congress was adding "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Hewetson
San Francisco

All's right with the world

I just knew that all would be right with the world when the Twin Peaks Tavern, once again, brought out its rainbow seat cushions for Pride season.

John-Michael Olexy
San Francisco

Reactionary, not revolutionary

Are we, who want to stretch the status quo limits of freedom, so vulnerable to printed corporate logos on queer Pride advertising that we feel this corporate inclusion has left us powerless? Does a corporate logo on a piece of paper, float, or entertainment stage disenfranchise or marginalize us? I believe this is "old-think." It is a worn out, ineffective strategy and symptomatic of the denial-of-reality by many activists. It is even reactionary, not revolutionary.

As a trans person, my view of including corporate logos in our queer events is no obstacle to my outrageous, effective, and revolutionary activism, if I make the effort. Whining about a piece of paper sounds juvenile and a substitute for real action! As well, funneling corporate money to revolutionary theatrical activism makes me think of that old cliché, "take the money and run!"

A few years ago the Sisters put a 40 foot penis in the SF Parade with our nuns inside, arms, heads, and legs sticking out, walking down the parade route, to make a point. I constructed the penis not knowing whether we'd be thrown out at the last minute by the Parade Committee. Instead they gave us an award! Get off your asses and do something instead of this lazy whining! Whine. Whine. Whine.

Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch
San Francisco

Detests Pride commercialization

I support LGBT community leader Davy Jones's protest against the commercialization of SF Pride and the boycott of Pride sponsors such as Budweiser, Clear Channel, and AT&T. Pride sponsors do not have the best interest of the gay community in mind.

I have not attended Pride celebrations since 1998 because I felt out of place with the increasing corporate sponsorship of the event and the event's departure from its roots.

Gay Pride is to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall riots, the birth of the gay liberation movement, and provides the opportunity for the LGBT community to come together to celebrate our diversity with pride, not to promote Budweiser, Clear Channel, etc., trying to cash in on our event.

Frank Smith
San Francisco

Pink triangle adds to neighborhood

Thank you very much for the call for volunteers to help install the pink triangle ["Volunteers needed to install pink triangle," June 20]. As a result there were eight new volunteers to help with the installation Saturday morning. Unfortunately, there were only a handful of us to remove lights and dismantle the project Sunday after the parade. It took until after dark to remove it. We were gratified Saturday morning that Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, Supervisor Mark Leno and Assemblywoman Carole Migden all came to christen the 2002 pink triangle with champagne and that the day was officially declared by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to be "Friends of the Pink Triangle Day in San Francisco." Our elected officials spoke eloquently on the history of the pink triangle, it's meaning today, why we need further hate crime protections, and that this symbol of hatred and shame from the past has now been embraced by the gay community as a symbol of pride. Our attempt at nighttime illumination of the pink triangle was aided by the good fortune of clear skies and we are told travelers on the Bay Bridge could see the illuminated display. We are thankful for the support of the Pride Committee Executive Director Teddy Witherington, the board of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Committee Inc., and the Castro Lions Club for their generous support this year.

The letter from Kurt True in last week's *Bay Area Reporter* regarding the pink triangle raised some interesting issues. "Disrupting the natural world" is certainly not an intent of the pink triangle display. When we first thought of doing the display six years ago, we did think about the consequences of the project. We scouted out several places to install the pink triangle and had initially wanted the project to be visible all the way down Market Street to the Ferry Building,

however, we decided it made sense to install the display on the grassy area slightly off axis with Market Street so we would stay out of the bushy areas and away from anything which may be living there.

The area we chose is just below the tourist overlook parking lot that is filled, by day, with large smoky buses and a constant stream of cars, all of which bring hundreds of people every day to enjoy the view of our lovely city. Unfortunately, some of those people hurl trash over the edge of the parking lot. By night, the parking lot seems to be a destination for people who do more than just enjoy the view as the area where the pink triangle display occurs is filled with hundreds of beer bottles, liquor containers of all sorts, syringes, condoms, cigarette cartons, fast food wrappers, underwear, and a glittering landscape of broken glass and jagged bottle shards. If anything, the volunteers who put up the pink triangle help the area as we carry out numerous garbage bags of debris.

Volunteers who help with the installation have been cut in the past from the broken glass. It is hard to imagine any species, other than humans, willing to tolerate that particular acre when there is so much more land on Twin Peaks from which to choose. Our display lasts two days each year whereas the assault from the revelers lasts all year.

Some of these revelers are not particularly gay friendly either and need a reminder of the hatred of the past. My partner was attacked last year as he was helping to dismantle the display because one of the party people who frequent the parking lot read one of our informational signs and became irate declaring that "fags need to be shamed and hated." The pink triangle display is there to educate and we install small informational signs, which tell the history of the pink triangle to those who make the trek up the hill. Most of the tourists are appreciative of the display and the learning experience. As for Mr.

True's assertion that the display gives the impression that we as a community are not good neighbors, many from that neighborhood came up the hill to thank us and to tell us they are not only happy about what we are doing, but that they are glad it is in their neighborhood.

Once again, thank you to the *Bay Area Reporter* for your support with the project over the years.

Patrick Carney, Friends of the Pink Triangle
San Francisco

Circumcision: Let young men decide

Matthew Bajko's review of circumcision as HIV prevention lacks critical scientific investigation ["Study stirs debate on benefits of circumcision as HIV prevention," June 20].

Surely no ethics committee permitted HIV researchers to infect intact foreskins still attached to healthy males. Researchers likely used amputated (i.e., "dead") foreskins that (surprise!) were susceptible to infection because they couldn't mount a defensive response.

Several researchers have described protective immunological functions of the intact foreskin. Circumcision defeats those immunological functions. Although this research is essential to the debate, it was omitted.

He also fails to report on other researchers who've performed meta-analyses (studies comparing all similar studies). In a 1994 meta-analysis, authors de Vincenzi and Mertens examined 23 circumcision-HIV studies and concluded that all suffered from a "lack of attention given to potential confounding factors." In 1999, Dr. Robert Van Howe subjected the data from 35 articles to rigorous statistical analysis. He found that, based on the combined data, "a man with a circumcised penis is at greater risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV than a man with a non-circumcised penis." Van Howe concluded: "[B]ased on the studies published in the scientific literature, it is incorrect to assert that circumcision prevents HIV infection."

This is consistent with America's AIDS experience, where the widespread custom of infant circumcision failed to protect circumcised men from the disease. Putting it bluntly, circumcision's only effect was to produce circumcised corpses.

The LGBT community knows the importance of choice when it comes to controlling our bodies, particularly when these choices affect our health and sexuality. Since sexual transmission of AIDS is not relevant to newborns, respect for human rights demands that the circumcision decision be postponed until a young man can make his own choice as to whether this surgery is correct for him.

Similar human rights threats erupted earlier in the AIDS epidemic, when some misguided physicians — "for the individual's good and that of society" — promoted quarantine camps, mandatory HIV testing, tattooing of people with HIV, and even castration for HIV-positive sex offenders. AIDS activists taught us that while we need to safeguard one another from viral exposure, we must not give AIDS the power to deprive weaker groups, in this case defenseless children, of a universal right to their own bodies and choices.

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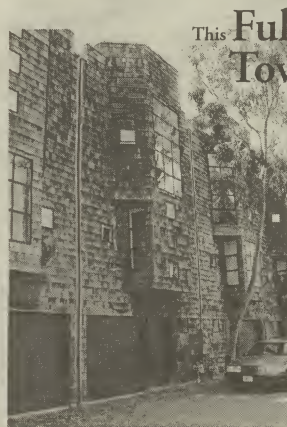
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With a stronger emphasis and clarification of the human rights issues involved, and a more objective and balanced review of the currently available science, Bajko could have reported that involuntary circumcision (from the child's perspective) not only violates this vulnerable class's right to physical integrity, as outlined in the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, but is also ineffective in preventing transmission or reception of any sexually transmitted disease, including HIV. The disservice resulting from Bajko's reporting is that any impression left with readers that circumcision may prevent HIV infection is likely to provide a false sense of security in circumcised males and divert attention and resources from effective proven measures of disease control.

Tim Hammond, Director
National Organization to Halt the
Abuse and Routine Mutilation of Males

Absurd idea

How could Matthew Bajko fail to observe that the whole idea of circumcision (and especially the circumcision of infants!) as a weapon against HIV is absurd? And how could the B.A.R. stoop to running a front page tag on this pseudo-scientific nonsense?

Since uncut men can use condoms, and condoms are readily available around the world, circumcision itself could only be considered an effective means against HIV transmission if one could show that an uncut penis with a condom rolled over it is a greater risk than a cut penis without a condom. That seems unlikely.

And even if such evidence were ever discovered, every man should still have the freedom to choose for himself if he wants to be circumcised, based on his comprehension of the issues involved — be they medical, cultural, religious, or personal. There is no valid reason for parents (or governments) to make a pre-emptive choice for a baby boy. When he's ready to have sex, he'll be ready to make a choice about his foreskin.

Furthermore, Dr. Landay's suggestion that boys be circumcised en masse in the developing world has uncomfortable racist undertones.

For those prospective parents whom Mr. Bajko addresses, wondering what to do for their infant sons, I suggest, as a service, you conduct a survey: Ask your uncircumcised readers how many of them wish they had been cut as infants.

Rob Costin
San Francisco

Removed at birth?

"Caution: This body part may become diseased later in life and should be removed at birth."

This is apparently the message that American parents see when they view their newborn son's body and order the surgical alteration of his penis through circumcision.

Matthew Bajko's recent review of the debate on circumcision as HIV prevention and its role in parental decision-making is misleading. To be clear, newborn circumcision is a peculiar dilemma faced only by American parents. Most of the world's parents in other medically advanced nations, including gay and lesbian parents, view any suggestion that they should have their son circumcised as preposterous. They know full well that children can be taught hygiene and responsible sexual behavior to prevent disease.

Increasing numbers of parents, among them lesbian and gay parents, also view infant circumcision as an act that usurps the child's fundamental human right to physical integrity and eventual self-determination. That's why we at Rainbow Flag Health Service, when providing insemination services to lesbians using the sperm from gay donors, have a policy refusing to serve parents who intend to mutilate the genitals of their children, regardless of sex. Since it is the child, and the adult they will become, who will have to live with the decision to circumcise, we place the child's rights foremost.

The issues of health and human rights are not mutually exclusive. They must be balanced. It is one issue for a genitally intact man who believes he can reduce his AIDS risk by having the most sensual half of his penile skin removed. It is quite another issue for someone else, even a parent acting on the belief that surgical alteration of their child will prevent diseases which are behavior-related, to request the removal of the most erogenous tissue of a child's genitals.

Genital mutilation of children too young to consent is not an answer to the AIDS epidemic.

What Matthew Bajko fails to point out is that the HIV rate in the gay male community in the U.S. is much higher than the gay male community in Europe. Over 85 percent of gay men in the U.S. are circumcised while less than 2 percent of European gay men are circumcised.

Finally, although gonorrhea and syphilis rates of circumcised and uncircumcised men are equal, chlamydia (a gonorrhea-like infection) is 65 percent more common in circumcised men. It appears the

foreskin is protective against some things.

Leland Traiman, RN/FNP, Executive Director
Rainbow Flag Health Services & Sperm Bank
Alameda, California

Barebackers, step up

It was unfortunate to read of the drastic cutbacks at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation [*"Pat takes a pay cut," June 20*]. I think it is time for the proud members of our "bareback" community to step up to the plate with their checkbooks and time as volunteers. On second thought, perhaps their volunteer time wouldn't be so valuable. If they are too stupid, lazy, or stoned to put on a rubber, I doubt they're very good at licking stamps.

Tom McCloskey
Burlingame, California

Kitty litter smackdown?

Though it is commendable that the B.A.R. has run a story about the outrageous pay scales and recent difficulties at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, you failed to mention that it has been ACT UP/SF that has been consistently exposing the pay issue for years. Like Enron in corporate America, SFAF is merely the tip of the corruption iceberg in AIDS Inc. Why gay people are not in the streets protesting this can be partially explained by the wimpy coverage of the gay press and the *San Francisco Chronicle* plus \$48 million a year flowing from government to self-appointed HIV/AIDS "experts" like Pat Christen.

Perhaps SFAF could stage a benefit with Pat and her staff starring in a used kitty litter wrestling match. It certainly wouldn't be any more disgusting than SFAF behavior thus far.

Jerry McPherson
Oakland, California

Free your spirit, ditch religion

Hey, folks, the only queer-specific question I wanna ask is this: Do you believe that every word in the Bible or Koran is 100 percent true?

If you answered yes, you agree that queers deserve the punishment of death. There is no question; both books clearly call for it. If you answered yes, you are my mortal enemy and deserve no sympathy from me in your plight. And you started it, for I hold no belief that tells me to go out and persecute you.

If you answered no, I can surely call you my friend — even if you still identify as a Christian or Muslim, because you have the bravery to challenge the monolith of your religion. I beg of you to speak out today to your family and religious cohorts, and let them know that you do not agree with parts of your "holy" book.

I hereby call for the liberation of Christian and Muslim fundamentalists worldwide. Throw down your Old Testament or Koran right now! Stand up and renounce Islam and the Vatican (or whatever)!

Or, maybe you really do believe queers are intrinsically evil — even if you are queer yourself. Perhaps you've been absorbing religious dogma since the day you were born, and cannot free your mind. Are you still my friend? Or do you subconsciously act in ways that contribute to my demise — like those "reformed" gays.

I can't quote which part of the Koran calls for the public toppling of walls onto homos, but I can remind everyone of the famous passage in the (pre-Jesus) Old Testament: "No man shall lie with another man as he would with a woman; it is an abomination; both shall surely be put to death."

I see little room for interpretation there, so it's no stretch to say that any gay Catholic or Christian or Levite is facing a load of self-hatred, unless you just admit that the Bible is a crock of hog poo, full of stinkers like that one.

In closing, let me state my mantra once again for all to hear: religion is not spirituality. Religion blocks out spirituality. Free your spirit, ditch your religion.

C.M. Matthews
Pleasant Hill, California

Don't call him 'geezzer'

Like many of my generation who have survived AIDS, I now find myself old and disabled; assigned to the slag heap of queerdome by those queers enjoying the fruits of our struggles. There is nothing that can change our age or physical condition; yet, there is much that can be done with a change in attitude by those who would expel us to the fringes of the community we created for them. I can handle not being sexually attractive any longer; but I refuse to accept being called geezer or old queen by those younger than ourselves. In spite of the objections last year; the Stop AIDS Project still produces the Geezers' Ball — a not so cute title the second time around.

The smart ass young guys who thought up this name would be lucky to grow old with half the energy and enthusiasm many of us old guys share with them.

It is no wonder younger men are killing themselves through risky sex; it is better than being labeled geezer or old queen.

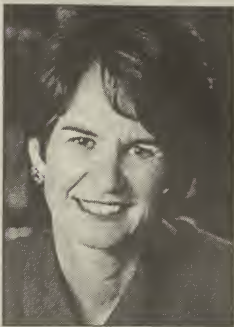
John Cailleau
San Francisco

Women expected to make statehouse gains

by Wayne Friday

Though it likely will be difficult this November for women candidates to gain House and U.S. Senate seats — 60 currently serve in the House and 13 in the Senate — gains among female candidates seem assured among the nation's gubernatorial contests.

Of the 50 states, only five now have women governors. But of the 36 states that will hold governor contests this year, women are credible candidates in about a dozen races, though **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend**, a Democrat



Kathleen Kennedy Townsend

of Maryland, is the only one at the moment said to be virtually assured of a win in November, taking a seat now held by a man.

Though several states still must hold primaries to choose their party nominees, women candidates are expected to be nominated by both major parties in Arizona, where the incumbent governor, Republican **Jane Hull**, is termed-out. Democratic candidate **Janet Napolitano**, who's the current state attorney general, is favored to not only keep the governorship in the hands of a woman, but would pick up a state for the Democrats as well.

In Minnesota, where maverick independent Governor **Jesse Ventura** has decided not to run again, state Auditor **Judi Dutcher** is considered a strong Democratic candidate.

In Kansas, state Insurance Commissioner **Kathleen Sebelius**, the only Democrat who holds statewide office, is very popular and will be the party's gubernatorial nominee. She faces a state Republican Party that is widely divided due to a bitter primary contest, and political analysts there say Sebelius now has to be considered the favorite to become Kansas' first Democratic governor in decades.

Governorships, as opposed to races for the House or U.S. Senate, are typically harder for women to win and any victories seem to set a precedent only for the individual state, not the nation. Of those women gubernatorial candidates given a chance in November, Democrats outnumber Republicans, though in Massachusetts, where acting Governor **Jane Swift** is stepping down, she is expected to be replaced by another Republican, **Mitt Romney**. The Democratic nominee for governor there is expected to be a woman, **Shannon O'Brien**, the current state treasurer.

In New Hampshire, **Bev Hollingworth**, the minority

leader of the state Senate, is favored to become that state's governor after November as is **Myrth York**, a former Democratic state senator, in the Rhode Island gubernatorial contest.

Things don't appear to be quite as promising for House and U.S. Senate women candidates, however. 2002 will certainly not be another "Year of the Woman" in politics as was 1992 when the number of women in the House of Representatives leaped to 48 from 28 and in the U.S. Senate to six from only two. Some think, however, that the current number of women in Congress may actually rise, but only by a handful, and could drop, political analysts from both major parties fear.

Certainly, in November, the more realistic goal for women candidates is among the 36 gubernatorial races where from six to eight more statehouses could go to women, raising the hopes that for the first time as many as a dozen women could be state chief executives after the first of the year.

Politics and people

Gay Pride week saw politics galore — everywhere. District 8 supe candidates **Bevan Duffy** and **Tom Radulovich** both made all the necessary appearances that make them the major contenders to replace Assemblyman-to-be **Mark Leno**.

And those who are supposed to know these things tell me that San Francisco likely will have at least two political heavyweights in the race to succeed state senator **John Burton**, who will be retiring in a couple of years. Possible contenders include Mayor **Willie Brown** and Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** (D-San Francisco), Marin Assemblyman **Joe Nation** (D), former S.F. Mayor **Art Agnos**, and attorney **Chris Moscone**. It could make for a very interesting race.

Meanwhile, potential candidates for the 2003 San Francisco mayoral race were out in force in Sunday's Pride Parade: **Tom Amiano**, **Gavin Newsom**, **Susan Leal**, and **Angela Alioto**, to name only a few, were all there doing the necessary political thing. Among those politicians who seemed to get the best response from the million or so people along the parade route: **Mark Leno** (riding with **John Laird**), **Dennis Herrera**, **Willie Brown**, **Nancy Pelosi**, **Sophie Maxwell**, **Aaron Peskin**, **Kimiko Burton**, and **Carole Migden**.

A trusted source informs me that a certain former police chief (no, not **Frank Jordan**) is very interested in a possible run for mayor next year and is making the necessary phone calls around town.

But one of the best receptions for a contingent in the parade went to the gay and lesbian S.F. police officers who marched together by the dozens, led by Chief **Fred Lau** and Deputy Chief **Mindy Pengel**.

In New York City, Mayor **Michael Bloomberg**, a Democrat-turned-Republican, continued the tradition of mayors before him by marching at the front of that city's Gay Pride Parade; however,

Bloomberg also followed another tradition — he was careful not to join the parade until it had safely passed St. Patrick's Cathedral, thereby avoiding some of the "disrespectful" acts and demonstrations that have marked earlier parades in front of the Catholic castle.

The University of Colorado regents last week approved health care benefits for same-sex partners and their dependents after 15 years of debate on the issue. The 5-to-4 vote reverses a decision nine months ago to deny such benefits and makes the university the first state entity in Colorado to offer gay partner benefits to employees; the policy takes effect in November.

And in Washington last week, Secretary of State **Colin Powell** called on business

leaders with overseas operations to ensure that there is no discrimination against people with AIDS. "This is one of those lessons we have to get to all employers and nations around the world — that they must not stigmatize people who are ill," said Powell, who is co-chairman of a presidential task force on AIDS. He also proposed that the CEOs make AIDS education a "mandatory" element of employee training and that companies care for HIV-infected workers.

Tom Coates, director of the University of California, San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, proposed that the firms adopt a new version of the "Sullivan Principles," business practices that helped topple apartheid in South Africa. Under Coates's proposal, multinational business with operations in hard-hit areas would address the social inequities and human rights violations that fuel the spread of AIDS and block access to treatment.

More Catholic politics: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi, where **Tony Sanchez**, the Texas nominee for governor, was raised, has barred him from speaking at its churches because of his support for abortion rights. The ban, imposed by Bishop **Edmond Carmody**, also applies to the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, **John Sharp**. Both candidates are lifelong Catholics who say they personally oppose abortion but support a woman's right to end a pregnancy; both also reportedly support equal rights for gays.

After it was revealed recently that WorldCom, the long-distance giant, had, like other corporate firms, been caught "cooking the books," some politicians rushed to return campaign donations. Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D-California), who had reported receiving \$2,500 in donations over the years from WorldCom, immediately directed her campaign accountant to return the money — not to WorldCom, but to find a way to get it to some of those who lost their jobs last week because of the company thievery. Representative **Robert Matsui** (D-Sacramento) also immediately returned \$5,000 he had received in campaign donations. Representative **Ellen Tauscher** (D-Alamo), herself a

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Who was Frida Kahlo?

by Paula Martinac

July 13, 1954 (48 years ago this month): Painter Frida Kahlo dies in Coyoacan, a suburb of Mexico City, in the same house where she was born.

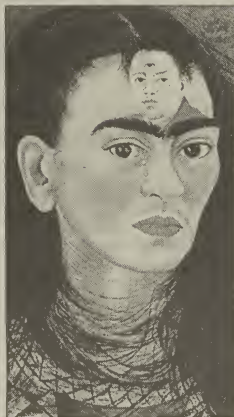
Mexican painter Frida Kahlo received little recognition during her life—except as the wife of the famous muralist Diego Rivera. Today, however, the surreal self-portraits of the openly bisexual, cross-dressing Kahlo bring millions of dollars at auction, and her brief, often painful life is the subject of two upcoming movies starring Salma Hayek and Jennifer Lopez, respectively.

She was born Magdalena Carmen Frieda Kahlo y Calderon in 1907 in a suburb of Mexico City of mixed German, Jewish, and Mexican ancestry. From early on, young Frieda (she dropped the "e" when she was in her 20s) had a queer side. As a girl, she had often "dressed like a boy, with shaved hair, pants, boots, and a leather jacket," she later recalled. In one photograph of her at 19, Kahlo posed wearing a three-piece suit and tie and assuming the stance of a confident young man.

Kahlo's young life was also marked by intense physical suffering. As a small child, she contracted polio, which deformed her left leg. At 18, she was in a near-fatal accident in which the bus she was riding collided with a trolley. Kahlo was impaled on a piece of metal, her back and pelvis broken and her right (good) leg crushed. She spent many months in a body cast and had to undergo numerous operations to try to alleviate her pain. To her disappointment, she was never able to have children.

One positive thing, however, came from Kahlo's long recuperation: Bored, she taught herself to paint. Oil painting had been a hobby of her father's, and she convinced him to let her use his paints. Her mother hired a carpenter to make a special easel for Kahlo's bed and fit the canopy with a mirror so she could paint herself. Thus began her long career in self-portraiture; as she later said, "I painted my own reality."

After a recovery that lasted several years, Kahlo began consorting with a group of progressive intellectuals and artists, including Diego Rivera, who was 20 years her senior. What began as a mentoring relationship quickly developed into a personal one, and the



Self-portrait of Frida Kahlo

two were married in 1929. Partly to please her husband and partly to show pride in her heritage, Kahlo radically changed her personal style after her marriage and began donning very colorful, feminine Mexican dresses.

Although they supported and complemented each other artistically, the marriage brought Kahlo emotional anguish on top of physical pain, reflected in the violent themes of her paintings from this time. Very shortly after they married, Rivera began having affairs with other women, including Kahlo's younger sister. Kahlo and Rivera were estranged several times, and she eventually began having extramarital relationships, too. Among her male lovers was exiled Communist leader Leon Trotsky.

During the times she was separated from her husband, and after their divorce in 1939, Kahlo reverted to the cross-dressing style and short hair of her youth. Her painting *Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair* (1940), depicting her in a man's suit with her shorn locks lying around her, was painted during a time when she was having affairs with women.

Although Kahlo didn't keep her bisexuality a secret, the names of her female lovers are now more conjecture than a matter of record. She most likely had an affair with Mexican-born actress Dolores Del Rio, star of *Flying Down to Rio* and other popular Hollywood films. Kahlo presented one of her paintings, *Two Nudes in the Forest* (1939), a tender depiction of two female lovers, as a gift to Del Rio.

Other women linked romanti-

cally to Kahlo are Mexican actress Maria Felix and American painter Georgia O'Keeffe. The relationship with O'Keeffe, however, according to one of that painter's recent biographers, was probably just a flirtation. Interestingly, only a year after they divorced, Rivera begged Kahlo to remarry him, which she did—on the condition that their relationship be platonic.

The 1940s marked a period of great artistic output for Kahlo, in which she painted some of her most striking self-portraits; sadly, many of them document her increasing physical pain. In *The Broken Column* (1944), for example, Kahlo portrayed herself pierced with nails, her body cleft in two with a steel rod where her spine should be. By that time, she had to wear a steel corset, and she was more and more reliant on painkillers to get through the day.

Although her greatest paintings were produced in the 1930s and 1940s, Kahlo received very little recognition during her lifetime, perhaps because her often violent and disturbing themes were atypical of women's work. She did not get a show of her own until 1953 in Mexico City. Because of her health problems, she arrived at the show in an ambulance and was carried into the gallery on a stretcher.

Kahlo died the following year at 47 in the same house where she was born (now the Museo Frida Kahlo). The official cause was a clot in one of the arteries leading to her heart, but some scholars have conjectured from reading her diary and studying her last drawings that she intentionally overdosed. In 1984, after she had become an international feminist icon, the Mexican government officially recognized her as one of that country's greatest artists. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at POcolumn@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Herrera, Hayden. 1991. *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo*. New York: Harper-Collins.

Kahlo, Frida. 1995. *The Diary of Frida Kahlo: An Intimate Self-Portrait*. New York: Harry N. Abrams.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

multimillionaire (former stockbroker) who has reportedly received \$6,000 from WorldCom, decided against returning the six grand. "She accepted the money in good faith," explained Lisa Tucker, Tauscher's campaign manager.

I don't think it's going to be that close, but some California Democratic Party officials are reportedly concerned that it really is a tight race between Democratic Governor Gray Davis and conservative Republican Bill Simon, and that votes received by Peter Miguel Camejo, the Green Party candidate for governor, could tilt the election to the right-wing, anti-gay Simon. I seem to recall

that, like others in the Green party, Camejo often changes parties—the guy ran for president as the Socialist candidate in 1976. Gray Davis leaves a bit to be desired—he's got the personality of a wet rag—but hasn't been a bad governor. Do we really want to go back to the days of George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson with the likes of Simon?

Incidentally, in addition to the high-profile race for governor, California voters will on November 5 be voting for (or against) three of the sitting California Supreme Court associate justices. Once every 12 years, justices of the state's high court must face voters for what's called a retention or reconfirmation vote. Those voters cast ballots either to "confirm" or "reject" the jurists and there are

three this November: Associate Justice Marvin Baxter (appointed by George Deukmejian), Associate Justice Kathryn Werdegar (appointed by Pete Wilson), and Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno, appointed by Gray Davis to replace Justice Stanley Mosk, who died last year.

Rosie O'Donnell, recently pulled kicking and screaming from the closet, has complained that she's begun to feel the sting of leading the fight to allow gays and lesbians to adopt children in Florida. She said a medical association recently rescinded an invitation for her to speak at its convention.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political item? E-mail WayneSF@aol.com

COMMENTARY

Lesbians and gay men are intimate strangers

by Paula Martinac

There's a conundrum at the heart of the gay rights movement – gay men and lesbians are at once comrades and strangers to each other. Although we're both denied rights because of whom and how we love, for decades there's been a profound uneasiness between us. And the recurring question is, can lesbians and gay men ever really be allies?

The discomfort we feel with each other is often legitimate. Lesbians have been stung more than once by gay male sexism, and gay men

mothers of gay men, straight women, straight men, teenage girls, curious neighbors, anyone with the tiniest shred of interest in gay men – and there's nary a lesbian among them.

That omission, however unintentional, speaks directly to the "dis-ease" in the relationship



Christine Smith

Lesbian Notions

between gay men and lesbians. It's easier for gay men to extol – as Nimmons does in his book – those stereotypical *Will & Grace* moments when gay men and straight women get to-

gether to compare moisturizers and kvetch about the men in their lives. It's easier for lesbians to raise their eyebrows over a book about gay men's soul-searching and head for the latest dyke romance novel. I'll admit that when I read the part of Nimmons's book in which he

page 19 ►

The separateness of lesbians and gay men struck me again recently while reading a new book called *The Soul Beneath the Skin: The Unseen Hearts and Habits of Gay Men*, by David Nimmons. From the title, it doesn't seem like a book a lesbian would want to read, especially given the photo of a bare-chested man on the cover. Indeed, if it wasn't written by a man I once worked with – Nimmons and I served on the board of the same gay organization in the early 1990s – I probably would have passed it by, as I have many other written-by-gay-men-for-gay-men titles.

What's interesting about this book, though, is that Nimmons is trying to help gay men see and value their intrinsic good by outlining the many contributions they have made to society and could make to the concept of masculinity. Gay men, Nimmons points out, are much less violent than straight men, show higher levels of altruism, and have distinguished themselves as caretakers. They've fashioned creative, non-conformist circles of friends and lovers and forged supportive relationships with women.

Some of what Nimmons describes makes gay men sound a lot like women, and that's a good thing in my opinion. Nimmons's kind of gay man is someone lesbians should want to get to know – the gay man who rejects the "bitchy queen" who lurks within to become a caring soul who helps craft a "durable truce across gender lines." That style of manhood is a far cry from what Andrew Sullivan, for example – who has also tried to call gay men to a new kind of masculinity – has espoused. In contrast to Nimmons, Sullivan actually blames feminists and lesbians for "emasculating" gay men.

But tellingly, although lesbians should have been an obvious readership for Nimmons's book, he doesn't seem to expect us to read it. In his introduction, he lists all the faceless people he saw as his audience – mothers and grand-

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Lambda Legal makes great strides during June

by Zak Szymanski

June was a busy and rewarding month for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, as the national organization dedicated to achieving full recognition of LGBT civil rights expanded its regional offices, filed a historic gay marriage lawsuit, and saw one of its attorneys recognized by California's largest legal newspaper.

Jennifer Pizer, a senior staff attorney at Lambda's Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, was named one of the top 30 women litigators in California by the *Daily Journal* for her groundbreaking work on behalf of LGBT people, Lambda announced last month. The newspaper, published in Los Angeles and San Francisco, highlighted Pizer's advocacy on behalf of surviving partners of the September 11 terrorist attacks; her work with *Sharon S. v. Superior Court of San Diego County*, where she is challenging a California Court of Appeals ruling against the legitimacy of second-parent adoptions; her help in defending San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance when it came under legal attack; and her work on legislation such as Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) AB25, the domestic partnership law that granted rights and benefits to registered couples.

Pizer was recognized along with a host of other well-known lawyers, including former San Francisco Supervisor Angela Alioto, American Trial Lawyers



Lambda's Jennifer Pizer

Association President-elect Mary Alexander, and women's rights advocate Gloria Allred.

"I am deeply honored to be included in a group of such outstanding attorneys, and more importantly, I am grateful to be able to make a difference in people's everyday lives through my work at Lambda Legal," said Pizer. "The chance to be part of this extraordinary legal team is a great privilege, and this award is certainly as much for the organization's ever-expanding legacy of achievements as it is for my own."

In keeping with this expanding legacy, Lambda opened a new office in Dallas, Texas on June 20.

Part of the organization's South Central Regional network—which includes Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and

Texas—the new office will be led by Lee Taft, a well-known Dallas attorney and civil rights leader. A total of four staff members will help to launch the effort, which has been designed to make LGBT rights work in the area more effective.

"Our new office means we are within a two-hour striking distance of any state in the region," said a statement from Kevin M. Cathcart, Lambda's executive director. "We'll be more accessible and pro-active, increasing our capacity to hit the ground running in our fight for full equality in rural and urban areas in these eight states."

Finally, on the East Coast, close to the organization's national headquarters in New York, Lambda joined seven lesbian and gay couples from New Jersey in filing a historic lawsuit claiming their right to marry. The suit, filed on June 26, is based solely on New Jersey's constitution, which means the New Jersey Supreme Court will have the last word in the case.

"The case is being launched at a critical time. The valiant struggle of gays and lesbians who lost their partners on September 11 has helped to create a new reservoir of respect and understanding for our loving relationships," said a statement from Lambda. "Now is the time to translate that new support into legal equality." ▼

For more information on Lambda's regional offices and current cases, visit www.lambdalegal.org.

Poll shows increase in voters who favor gay marriage

by Matthew S. Bajko

The number of California voters who say gays and lesbians should be allowed to legally wed is continuing to increase, according to a new poll by Californians for Civil Marriage.

And for the first time since 1999, less than half those surveyed said they opposed same-sex marriages. Also, a majority of those surveyed—once they were educated about the issue—said they would support gay civil marriage.

Conducted by Decision Research, the survey polled 500 registered voters and asked them if they support civil marriages for gay couples. While 49 percent said they opposed gay marriages, 45 percent of respondents said they support it.

"As people get more information in the course of the survey, we found the majority is in support of allowing gays and lesbians to marry. Fifty-one percent were in favor while 46 percent were opposed after being informed about the issue," said Robert Meadow with Decision Research. "With greater information and experience on the issue, the fears and barriers to support are coming down."

When voters were first polled about same-sex marriage in 1999, 57 percent said they opposed

same-sex marriages while only 39 percent said they favored them. When the same survey was conducted in 2000, 50 percent said they opposed and 42 percent said they supported gay marriage.

"There is a sense of movement that the voters have. They recog-

nize it is coming. The only question is when it will happen," said Meadow. "Marriage is seen as a fundamental right, the data suggests. The right to marry is seen as fundamental a right as free speech or pursuit of happiness."

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Community Center board dons togas for fundraiser

by Matthew S. Bajko

After the success of last year's toga-laced Bacchanal, the LGBT Community Center is once again hosting an evening of Grecian decadence, fine feasting, and wines of the gods and goddesses, and a dress code saluting the Greek forefathers.

The event, which was launched last year as a part of the capital campaign for the center, has now been transformed into an annual fundraiser and membership event.

The evening will benefit the new 40,000 square foot center which opened in March. Located at 1800 Market Street, the building is one of the largest LGBT community centers in the country, and houses 23 nonprofit organizations.

The center's board of directors still needs to raise almost \$75,000 to complete the \$15.3 million price tag of the building. Last year's Bacchanal event raised \$450,000 and organizers are hoping to double that amount this year.

"It was such a fun party last year that people were disappointed they missed it. Hopefully it will be larger this year and we can do double what we did last year," said Dana Van Gorder, vice president of the center's board.

The Roman-inspired party will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday, July 12 at the Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street at 3rd Street.

Individual tickets cost \$125 and include a one-year individual membership to the center. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call (415) 677-8688. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Substance recovery alternative proponents coming to SF

by Zak Szymanski

LGBT people with substance abuse issues are a strong presence in 12-step programs. So are those convicted of drug-related crimes who choose treatment over jail time. But the founders of Rational Recovery, an anti-program program, have long believed that dependence on group meetings can for many people become an addiction in itself.

Rational Recovery, founded in 1985 by Jack Trimpey and headquartered in El Dorado County, emphasizes self recovery over models that believe in addiction as a disease, according to Brian J. Haley, a self-described former addict and Rational Recovery advocate. Working from the motto, "Opt out of Addict-Identity," Rational Recovery also is opposed to requiring people to identify as lifelong addicts in order to receive social support services, housing, child custody, and other rights and privileges that are often given on the condition that one remains in treatment.

Rational Recovery proponents will be making presentations in San Francisco this week in an effort



Rational Recovery founder Jack Trimpey, right, and his wife, Lois.

to educate addicts and city officials about options beyond the more popular models of treatment.

"Instead of recovering completely from addiction and moving on with life, many people in 12-step programs become dependent on groups and feel they must live one day at a time," said Haley. "We'll be working with the city of San Francisco to take on the population of people that are having real trouble wrapping their minds around the incurable disease model of addiction. We believe a person can identify addiction as a problem and recover completely

through planned permanent abstinence."

Haley said he has been clean and sober for the past four years, and that he spent his first three years of recovery in AA and Narcotics Anonymous, but found himself "constantly having to relive the pain of the addiction."

"People who were 15 years clean would come in and say 'I'm a drunk and a loser and I felt like drinking today.' And I thought, 'God, what is this about? I don't want to be like that 15 years down the road.'"

Granted, Rational Recovery – although critical of what it calls the "cult" status of 12-step programs – is not without its own slogans, beliefs, or products. Trimpey has trademarked his "Ad-

dictive Voice Recognition Technique," which he says allows addicts to maintain their sense of power and recognize it is not them, but their minds, that always want to drink or do drugs. Rational Recovery also shuns the idea of group meetings of any kind, based on their tendencies to mimic 12-step organizations.

Still, for those interested in its message, a couple of events are happening on Wednesday, July 10 in San Francisco.

At 4 p.m., Haley will be making a presentation to the San Francisco Drug Abuse Advisory Board asking it to adopt regulations that require new clients to be told about recovery options other than 12-step programs. The meeting takes place at 1663 Mission Street, suite 204.

And at 8 p.m., Haley and Trimpey will present a discussion entitled "Opt Out of Addict-Identity" at Civic Center Park across from City Hall.

Bigger goals for Rational Recovery include opening a San Francisco center for people required to seek treatment; the center would be self-recovery based but assign case workers to oversee requirements of urinalysis, back to work training, and other conditions of the court.

For more information, visit www.rational.org, or call (415) 255-9412. ▼

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Viacom pushes cable carriers to carry gay channel

by Matthew S. Bajko

Six months after Viacom's development of a gay television channel leaked out to the press, the media giant is pulling out all the stops to convince cable operators and satellite providers to carry the channel.

In order to better sell the concept, Viacom has produced a short film about the marketing to the gay community and is touting the success of its current gay programming, such as *Queer as Folk* and *Tales of the City* series. The company has also launched what is believed to be the first dedicated block of weekly programming for the gay market.

Carried on its Showtoo channel, Showtime is airing a gay movie, an episode of its cartoon series *Queer Duck*, and an episode of *Queer as Folk* every Wednesday night. The company hopes good ratings for that night will help to sell its gay channel, which is tentatively scheduled to be launched in 2003.

"We are in development. The big issue is getting distribution," said Gene Falk, who oversees Showtime's Digital Media Group and is responsible for all of the company's new business opportunities, business development activities, and new media ventures. "We are talking to cable carriers if they are likely to carry it."

Speaking at a New York Times-sponsored talk as part of the 26th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Falk said that while nothing is concrete,

Viacom is leaning toward making the new gay channel both subscription and advertising based. Most likely, he said subscribers would be charged between \$6 to \$8 a month to receive the channel.

As for the content of the new channel, Falk said that has yet to be decided. He said it would probably be a mix of films and new programming.

"There are great gay and lesbian films out there that never get exposure," he said. "A gay channel could provide for breaking news and media coverage of gay issues."

Having a dedicated 24-hour channel would also provide for a better representation of the entire gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender spectrum, Falk told the audience at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater.

"Television mainly shows white, young male images still," said Falk. "With a 24-hour channel there is the opportunity to show the whole diversity of the community. If we program that way we will see what the audience response is."

Loren Javier, the cultural media manager for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said he is hopeful that such a wide variety of gay images will be found on the new channel. As a gay Pinoy, Javier said it is hard for him to find representation of himself in mainstream media.

"There is a lot of opportunity here and a lot of stories to be told," said Javier. "The community is very diverse and there will be a lot of scrutiny. But there will also be a lot of support for a gay channel." ▼

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Sir Ian McKellen shakes hands with people along Market Street during the Pride Parade.

SF Pride 2002

◀ page 1

it's a decision he has never regretted. [For more on the B.A.R. interview with McKellen, see the Out There column, page 26.]

On Sunday, he appeared to have a great time taking in the cheers from the crowd. Wearing a white jacket and slacks, McKellen tipped his hat and waved the Union Jack as the crowd roared its approval.

Actress Sharon Gless, who plays the mother of a gay son on Showtime's *Queer as Folk*, was another crowd favorite and seemed equally appreciative of the crowd.

Singer Nancy Sinatra also drew cheers, as did the community grand marshals: city Treasurer Susan Leal, gay activist Hoover Lee, and transgender activists Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago.

The parade started promptly at 10:30 a.m. with the roar of the Women's Motorcycle Contingent. As has become custom, it ended hours later.

The parade, with the theme, "Be Yourself, Change the World," included an estimated 7,500 marchers along Market Street, including more motorized contingents than ever before, and the addition of five newly purchased floats. One other noticeable change this year was increased television coverage of the leather community, a step made possible in large part by advocacy from leather activists themselves. Bears, dykes on bikes, politicos, international groups, drag queens, and everyone in between had a presence.

Following the grand marshals, nearly 200 contingents marched, rode and otherwise strutted their stuff under sunny skies. Marriage Equality California's float told several stories, as people acted out sketches of the rights denied to gays and lesbians, such as hospital visitation, immigration rights, and the ability to file joint tax returns.

The Imperial Court's float had a patriotic theme, while the Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits contingent had a magnificent float and Native American music.

The parade's diversity extended to virtually all cultures - Latinos, Asians, and African Americans marched - and all ages, including the popular PFLAG marchers, youth from many gay-straight alliances, and seniors.

The combination of near-perfect weather, a diverse festival with 10 different entertainment stages, and a variety of celebrity appearances all helped the Pride Parade and Celebration exceed its projected donation revenues, Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington told the B.A.R. on Monday, July 1.

Although the exact amount of



Go-go girls on the truck at the June 29 Dyke March.

funds raised has not yet been calculated, Witherington said that the community nonprofit organizations counting on the admission donations will be "very happy."

Similarly, putting an estimation on attendance also proved difficult just one day after the festivities came to a close. The *San Francisco Chronicle* at first estimated anywhere from 300,000 to one million, quite a large range, but Witherington guessed that attendance was "about the same" as last year's estimated one million parade participants and observers.

"We're still evaluating attendance numbers," said Witherington. "Some said it seemed a bit lighter, others said it seemed more crowded. We'll be better able to figure out a number when the donations reach their final tally."

Witherington also reported no major incidents at the parade or festival, "besides the thousands of little things that happen at an event like this." And he credited the parade's grand marshals with setting a tone of inclusiveness.

"It was great to see everybody up there together: from Ian McKellen to Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago to Hoover Lee and Susan Leal," he said. "They were all very accessible to the crowds."

Official Pride activities kicked off on Saturday, June 29 at the Civic Center. Highlights of the day included Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) annual domestic partnership ceremony, organized in large part by her LGBT liaison Kirsten Boyd and hosted with the help of Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno. More than 200 couples recited their vows, many of them in traditional and non-traditional wedding attire.

On Sunday's main stage, Dead or Alive, Marc Almond, and Pansy Division all played to a thunderous reception.

"The marchers were awesome, the performers were awesome," said Witherington. "Everyone was awesome."

Hundreds of thousands in attendance seemed to agree. ▼



Marriage Equality California's parade float highlighted inequalities faced by lesbians and gays.

NATIONAL NEWS

Pres. AIDS council meets in D.C.

by Bob Roehr

The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS focused on the issue of approval of a rapid test for HIV at its June 21-22 meeting in Washington, D.C. Depending upon the site, about a third of the people who take an HIV test in the U.S. do not return to learn the results of that test. Rapid tests – those that yield results in an hour or less – are used elsewhere in the world but not in the United States. Some have pointed the finger at regulatory restrictions as the reason why.

Patients not following up is “the worst of both worlds,” said PACHA co-chair Tom Coburn, a physician and conservative former congressman from Oklahoma. Patients “had a worry and they don’t know the answer, so they don’t know how to modify their health care” or behavior. He argued that rapid testing also can “bring people into treatment early, to save lives.”

Bernard Branson presented a briefing for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He said rapid testing would result in an estimated 8,000-10,000 more people a year learning that they are HIV-positive. But it also would result in a similar number of “false positives,” people told that they had HIV, when in fact a second confirmatory test would reveal that they were not infected with the virus. Rather, the initial test was faulty.

CDC official Edward Baker explained that the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 require that a test be both simple and have “an insignificant risk of an erroneous result” in order for regulations to be waived and allow a test to be conducted outside of a regulated laboratory. The view has been that HIV tests

do not qualify, however, it appears that some rapid HIV tests have entered the Food and Drug Administration approval process.

Oregon HIV director Mark Loveless represented the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors in supporting rapid HIV testing. “People who have rapid tests are much more likely to be connected with service in a timely fashion,” he said. “And knowledge of status is a significant factor in changing behavior. If you know your status you are much more likely to change your behavior and reduce the risk to your partners.”

Loveless argued that rapid tests are more cost effective. Avoiding “the huge infrastructure required to monitor testing could save as much as 50 percent of the cost of an equivalent implementation strategy.” He also believes that a widely available test “has a significant potential for reducing the AIDS testing stigma ... and normalize this test.”

During discussion, PACHA member Jim Driscoll admitted that there is “a big trade off between quality control and access.” He believes that current restrictions are “a barrier to health care to people at the margins of society.”

Brent Minor cautioned that counseling has to be part of the equation and should not be forgotten in the rush to simply test people for HIV.

Stuart Burden worried about the potential for abuse by employers, insurance carriers, and others. Coburn responded that every type of HIV test has the potential for abuse and “there are laws on the books addressing that.”

PACHA voted to send a letter to the White House expressing its strong support for rapid HIV testing, and if necessary, the prodding of the FDA not to restrict such

tests.

A subsequent series of presentations and discussions on prevention issues highlighted areas of disagreement between members of PACHA who support many of the current prevention activities and those who favor programs that only teach abstinence.

“The AIDS epidemic is mainly a function of multiple sexual partners or injecting drug-using partners through the very early and highly infectious stages of the disease. During the first weeks and months of infection [HIV] may be 100 to 1,000 times more communicable than it is at other times later during the natural history,” said Franklin Judson, director of public health for Denver.

Some experts believe that this window from point of infection to the development of antibodies to the virus is when half of all new transmissions occur in the United States. It is a fact that PACHA ignored in its discussion, just as the CDC has ignored it in its five-year “blueprint” for reducing the level of new HIV infections in this country.

PACHA member Joe S. McIlhane, a leading advocate of abstinence-only programs, focused upon prevention programs that teach sexual abstinence until marriage and monogamy as the best way to reduce the spread of HIV.

Somewhat surprisingly, he also said, “Nobody will argue that condoms can reduce the risk of HIV infection.” But he downplayed their effectiveness, saying that even with best practices there is a 15 percent rate of failure with condoms, a figure that many would dispute.

What was most encouraging about the discussion that followed was the movement away from polarizing language toward common ground. There was consensus that kids are not always well equipped

to handle sex at an early age and most would be better off deferring sex and limiting their number of partners.

There was clarification that condoms could be “discussed” but not “advocated” in abstinence-only programs, though surely there remain differences as to what constitutes discussion and advocacy. And there was a realization that prevention messages need to be shaped and targeted to individual communities of those at risk.

William Steiger, special assistant for global health to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, briefed PACHA on international issues. He said the \$500 million mother and child initiative announced the previous day by President Bush represented “an exponential increase in resources going to this problem.” He compared it to the \$10 million annually that the largest funder in this area, the Elizabeth Glaser Foundation, is currently spending.

Some of the federal money will be spent in this fiscal year, that is, by the end of September. It will include building infrastructure in southern African nations, building capacity through training programs with U.S. hospitals, and in some instances, where appropriate, the comprehensive use of antiretroviral therapy.

Steiger said that Thompson will lead a delegation of senior U.S. officials to the upcoming XIV International AIDS Conference, July 7-12 in Barcelona, Spain. He will address the conference and hold a series of meetings with officials of other governments.

“It is a measure of how seriously this administration is taking this,” said Steiger.

Former HHS Secretary Donna Shalala attended one of the earlier conferences in Vancouver. ▼

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Companies freeze HIV drug prices

by Bob Roehr

GlaxoSmithKline, the largest supplier of drugs for treating HIV disease, announced a price freeze on all of those products for all payers, through January 2004. In a June 20 news release, the company cited the shortfall in federal funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs run by the states as its primary reason for acting.

“We will do our part with this short-term price freeze,” said Peter Hare, a vice president for GSK. “However, a sustainable system must be set in place to adequately fund state ADAPs.”

Pfizer had announced a similar freeze while the pharmaceutical companies Abbott, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Roche had announced more limited freezes that covered pricing for ADAP and Medicaid.

“This is a very good development, especially from Glaxo because they are the overall market leader,” said Martin Delaney with Project Inform. “It puts much more pressure on the remaining companies with smaller market shares to meet the terms.”

Other observers were not so sure. They argued that focusing a price freeze on ADAP would have sent the political message that it is ADAP that is in trouble and needs

fixing. A broader freeze sent the message that HIV drug prices were the issue. That perhaps might lessen the political pressure, and also might be a disincentive for industry to invest in research to develop the next round of therapies, some observers noted.

The most important thing is that state ADAP programs will know “what I paid for the treatment this year will be the same next year,” said Bill Arnold, with the ADAP Working Group. That translates into not having to spend an additional \$50-60 million, or losing about 7,500 treatment slots.

The ADAP Working Group projects a \$162 million shortfall in ADAP funding this year, but Congress declined to make a supplemental appropriation when it passed a broad emergency funding bill in June. A dozen states have either imposed waiting lists for new enrollees, raised the criteria to qualify for assistance, or cut back the number of drugs covered by their programs. At least that many states are discussing similar reductions.

“The data is pretty clear, not just for AIDS but for any disease, when you start cutting back on formularies, people get sicker and end up in the hospital,” said Arnold. “The community is better off with people not so sick and continuing to work.”

The Presidential Advisory

Council on HIV/AIDS wrote to the White House on May 1 recommending increased funding for ADAP and that the administration “modify 1,115 waivers on state Medicaid programs to maximize the ability of ADAP funds to serve more people.”

The item was again on PACHA’s agenda when it met on June 21.

“If we don’t find new money, 30-40 states will have waiting lists,” said Hank McKinnell, chairman and CEO of Pfizer. He suggested that the industry price freeze set the right climate for getting the president and Congress to do their parts in resolving the

growing crisis.

PACHA co-chair Tom Coburn, a physician and former Republican congressman from Oklahoma, emphasized the need to find and root out “waste” in Ryan White AIDS programs and redirect that money to ADAP. He asserted, “There is plenty of money to fund every ADAP program,” based upon examples of waste and fraud he had read about in the press.

Coburn also noted that the pharmaceutical industry gives away a lot of free drugs through access programs for the indigent.

Joe McIlhane, another conser-

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Medical pot and publicly funded housing

The Supreme Court just says no

by Ramon M. Gonzalez, Client Advocate

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Dear AIDS Legal Referral Panel:

I have a recommendation from my doctor to use medical marijuana to help alleviate some of the symptoms of HIV/AIDS that I live with. Thanks to my doctor and my local cannabis club, I am feeling much better, eating regularly, and even putting back on weight! The bad news is that I live in federally-funded public housing, which has a zero-tolerance attitude about this kind of thing. They've even threatened to evict me if I light up. Say it ain't so!

- Not So Dazed But Very Confused in S.F.

Dear Not So Dazed But Very Confused,

I'm afraid it is so. Although Californians voted to pass Proposition 215 in 1996, thereby legalizing medical marijuana for seriously ill people, the United States Supreme Court unanimously ruled in May 2001 that federal anti-drug laws make no exception for medical marijuana users under Proposition 215. This means the federal government can ban the substance on its property, including public housing developments, even if you have a doctor's approval.

It gets even worse. On March 26, 2002, the United States Supreme Court unanimously voted to allow housing authorities in Oakland to evict low-income tenants for drug activity they

knew nothing about. The court, in quoting Congress, stated that drug dealers have imposed a "reign of terror" in public housing projects, and, therefore, all drugs, including medicinal marijuana, are banned.

The Supreme Court overturned the lower courts' rulings, which were in favor of the tenants and against the no-fault eviction policy. This policy is illustrated by the tenants' stories: Pearlle Rucker, 63, has a mentally disabled daughter who was caught with cocaine three blocks away from the housing project; Willy Lee, 71, and Barbara Hill, 67, have grandsons who were arrested for smoking marijuana in a nearby parking lot; and Herman Walker, 75, is a partially paralyzed man whose caretaker hid crack pipes in Mr. Walker's apartment. The lower courts ruled in favor of the tenants, stating that these tenants had no knowledge of the drugs but the U.S. Supreme Court overturned those decisions.

The Supreme Court's ruling is based on a 1988 federal law, which allows public housing authorities to evict tenants for drug crimes by household members and guests. The court stated that a tenant who can't control drug-using household members and guests is a threat to the entire housing project.

Federal law, specifically 42 U.S.C.S. Sec. 1437d(l)(6), requires tenants in public housing projects to sign a lease allowing for evictions based on any illegal drug activity, regardless of their knowledge of such activity.

The only bright spot on this issue is that such evictions are dis-

cretionary, so it's not an automatic eviction. This means housing authorities are permitted to consider all the circumstances prior to determining whether they should give you the boot.

Unfortunately, even if the illegal drug use is off the premises, that activity may still be grounds for eviction. Obviously, what all this means to you is to try to find a safe place away from your housing project - and possibly even your neighborhood - to take your medicinal marijuana, so you don't get kicked out. You should also try to stay in your neighbors' good graces.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 1663 Mission Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103. For specific questions regarding housing call (415) 701-1200, ext. 314. To find out more about ALRP visit the Web site at www.alrp.org.

'Bring it' to Cheer SF cheerleading tryouts

by Zak Szymanski

There are very few places one can do backflips, build pyramids, and work as part of the LGBT community all at the same time. Cheer San Francisco - the very gay and very well-known cheerleading squad that performs at numerous events worldwide - is inviting interested ambidextrous folks to its annual team tryouts next Saturday, July 13 from 1-5 p.m. at the SF Bay Club, 150

Greenwich Street.

At least one workshop attendance is recommended for those trying out; workshops will be held this Saturday and Sunday, July 6 and 7, from noon to 3 p.m. at Justin Herman Park Plaza at Embarcadero and Washington streets. Another workshop takes place on Tuesday, July 9 from 7-10 p.m. at Head Over Heels Gym, 1250 45th Street, in Emeryville.

Don't be surprised by Cheer SF's camaraderie; despite the queer-popular film, *Bring It On*,

this is one cheering team that emphasizes dedication, energy, and cooperation in addition to talent. Cheer San Francisco members have the opportunity to attend cheerleading camps, perform at the Gay Games, and appear at festivals, parades, and sporting events throughout the state.

For more information on the team, visit www.cheersf.org or call (415) 995-2195. And if you think you have what it takes to be a cheerleader, then Cheer SF dares you to "bring it" to tryouts. ▼

Zen Hospice hosts benefit next week

by Zak Szymanski

In 1987, a community came together to focus on exploring the experience of dying as one of transformation, combining contemplative spirituality and service with modern medicine.

Fifteen years later, San Francisco's Zen Hospice Project is training volunteers to assist people facing life-threatening illnesses; maintaining a residence and appropriate services for people in the final days of their lives; and providing educational programs that foster aware-

ness and compassion and can be used as a model around the world.

To celebrate its anniversary and raise needed funds for its services, the Zen Hospice Project will host its second annual "Art and Healing" benefit on Thursday, July 11 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio.

Actors Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker of *L.A. Law* fame will co-chair the event, which includes a catered reception with dessert, wine, and other beverages. The heart of the event, according to spokeswoman Lisa Ruth Elliott, is the chance for the community

to meet and experience the spontaneous work of brush stroke artist Kazuaki Tanahashi, who will be painting a six foot tall enso (the symbol for transformation) with a brush as big as himself.

The event will also feature a memorial ceremony for people who have died at the hospice and anyone else that attendees would like to remember, and a display of brush work by volunteer caregivers that reflects their work with people who are dying.

Tickets are \$100. Call (415) 863-2910 or visit www.zenhospice.org for tickets or for more information. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit. If submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Martin E. Abbott II



mented by many facets of artistic ability, will be missed by all the lives he touched.

Martin E. Abbott II passed away June 4, in San Francisco, at the age of 42. He is survived by his parents as well as two sisters. His engaging personality and unprecedented sense of style, complemented by many facets of artistic ability, will be missed by all the lives he touched.

Born and raised in San Diego, he worked and lived in San Francisco for well over 10 years. He had many talents and interests including sculpting, painting, hair design, acting, kayaking and traveling. His name will be etched in the "Circle of Friends" at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park, and any excess contributions will be donated to Project Open Hand in Martin's name. Any correspondence, letters, photos or donations can be forwarded to the "Martin Abbott Memorial Fund," P.O. Box 14791, San Francisco, CA 94114 in remembrance of him.

Eszerski pal

◀ page 1

yet."

After his arrest with Ezerski in Reno, Young was turned over to the California Department of Corrections. He said being sent back to prison was a "real wake-up call" for him.

"It was a kind of good wake-up call in a way," Young added.

Young noted that he was taking steps to turn his life around just before his arrest in April. All his possessions and even the clothes he was wearing when he was arrested in Reno are gone. He had been staying at a residential hotel in the Tenderloin at the time of his arrest in August and the management there apparently discarded his possessions after 30 days, Young said. He was beginning to start his life over. He got the basics back: a new Social Security card, a new driver's license, and other things he needed to get work.

"I was getting my shit together," Young explained.

The arrest in April shattered Young's hopes and left him shaken.

"It scared the bejesus out of me," Young told the B.A.R.

Young said that because he's been in jail before for brief periods of time on various drug charges, he believes many of his friends are beginning to give up on him.

On May 29, Young pleaded guilty to the charges of harboring a fugitive and lying to an FBI

agent. He's scheduled to be sentenced August 14. The assistant U.S. attorney who is prosecuting Young, Dave Hall, told the B.A.R. that Young faces a potential sentence of up to 10 years.

Young's attorney, Assistant Federal Public Defender David Fermino, said that although 10 years is the maximum sentence, under sentencing guidelines that take into account Young's non-violent criminal record, Young would likely get four to five years in prison. Fermino said he will try to use the mitigating circumstances surrounding Young's crime to argue for a lesser sentence. Fermino explained that Young agreed to plead guilty rather than go to trial because under federal sentencing guidelines, prison time is reduced for guilty pleas. Fermino noted that if they went to court and lost, the guidelines would call for more than six years of prison time. Fermino hopes to collect letters of support for Young that he can use to convince a judge to go easy on him.

Fermino explained that although Young tried to get Ezerski to turn himself in, the law required him to immediately notify police as soon as he first became aware that Ezerski was wanted by police. Fermino hopes that Young's efforts to get Ezerski to turn himself in will be seen as a mitigating factor in sentencing.

'Super hero complex'

Young said he has a "super hero complex" and felt obligated

to take Ezerski under his wing. Young said he identified with Ezerski because of his own youthful struggles for survival on the streets of San Francisco.

Young told the B.A.R. that he still strongly supports Ezerski and remains convinced of his innocence. Ezerski is awaiting trial in Florida for killing Anthony Martilotto in a Fort Lauderdale hotel room. Ezerski maintains that he killed Martilotto in self-defense after Martilotto attacked him.

Ezerski was initially suspected of killing two men in Florida before assaulting a man in San Francisco. He was dubbed a "gay serial killer" in the media and was compared to Andrew Cunanan, the gay serial killer who murdered designer Gianni Versace. Ezerski's case was featured twice on Fox's *America's Most Wanted* program. Ezerski was cleared of the second murder in Florida shortly after his arrest in Reno.

Ezerski denied that he attacked a man in San Francisco but he claimed he had a mutual fight with the man after the man refused to pay him for sex. San Francisco Police aren't buying that explanation. Their investigation resulted in charges of assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault being filed against Ezerski. San Francisco Police Inspector Dominic Celaya told the B.A.R. that although a \$25,000 felony warrant has been issued for Ezerski, whether he will ever stand trial in San Francisco is dependent on the outcome of his murder trial in Florida. ▼

HIV tracking

◀ page 1

care system.

"This new regulation guarantees anyone who is infected with HIV will have every assurance of maintaining their privacy while allowing health workers to track HIV and AIDS throughout the testing process," Governor Gray Davis said in a conference call Monday with reporters and AIDS advocates. "I encourage all Californians at risk for HIV, but who have avoided testing due to privacy concerns, to go to their doctor or health clinic to be tested."

The state's system is similar to coding methods used in Maryland, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Puerto Rico. Thirty-three states track HIV by reporting patients' names.

California's decision not to use a names-based system is in re-

sponse to concerns that people would not get tested for HIV due to privacy and confidentiality concerns if they knew their names would be sent to the state. State health officials insist there is no way for someone to determine a person's name with the coding system they have devised.

"It is specifically made to be difficult so you couldn't trace it back to a specific name," explained Dr. Diana Bonta, director of the state's Department of Health Services.

Until Monday, full-blown AIDS cases were the only numbers reported, and names are used in that tracking. AIDS advocates who pushed for the new reporting system welcomed the new regulations and hope it will allow them to paint a better picture of how the virus is affecting the state's residents.

"Some counties are better than others at making some good esti-

mates about what the epidemic looks like. But in fact we don't really know," said Dana Van Gorder, a legislative affairs director with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "There are some holes, and a certain number of HIV-positive people are not getting tested. Nevertheless, much more comprehensive data helps the counties plan for appropriate HIV services."

The data collected will also help determine where funding should be spent and how much should be allocated. California currently receives \$108 million in federal funding annually for the care of HIV and AIDS patients.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has set a July 1, 2004, deadline for all states to have an HIV-tracking system. Those that fail to implement such a program likely will see reduced funding based on the lower number of reported AIDS cases. ▼

lines in an attempt to standardize those procedures.

Pfizer's McKinnell said that federal antitrust laws "prohibit [pharmaceutical companies] from talking [with each other] about our drug provision programs." He added, PHARMA, the industry lobbying group, is creating a Web site with links to company run HIV drug assistance programs. They are trying to create a common application form to reduce paperwork. They hope the system

will be operational in a few months.

States also can be asked to do more in terms of supplemental funding, said Karen Ivantic-Doucette. She suggested recycling drugs that are not used when patients switch therapy. But federal law prohibits such recycling because of fear of contamination.

PACHA members decided to send a letter to the president incorporating elements of their discussion. ▼

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Conducted by: Center for AIDS Prevention Studies
University of California, San Francisco

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HIV drugs

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vative physician, said that many doctors are not aware of those programs and suggested an education campaign.

Philip Burgess, who works for Walgreens, said that many of the 43 states in which they operate pharmacies have different procedures and forms. He suggested creating "best practices" guide-



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Under dog

By Jim Provenzano

"This junta that is governing us, this Enron/Pentagon junta, dedicated only to enrichment through the oil business, as all the Bushes and Cheney's and so on are oil people, they are going to destroy, for personal profit, the United States."

— Gore Vidal

Police arrested six people at the Hidden Valley Golf Club in Norco, California after a private golf tournament which included on-course prostitution.

"As part of the golf tournament, sex acts were offered to participants for a fee," Lisa McConnell, of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, told Reuters.

"There were tents set up around the course, where people could pay for sex."

Police detained 100 people and arrested three for pimping and pandering, two for prostitution, and one for possession of drugs.

The name of the group sponsoring the tournament was not disclosed. McConnell said it was not clear if the owners of the golf club knew of the paid sex.

Ah, the perfect Republican vacation. Golf, adultery, money, exclusivity, tacky clothes, hypocrisy, and a façade of respectability.

Meanwhile, across town in Riverside, a gay man was murdered outside a bar by a herd of thugs for simply walking with friends to his car.

This is why it was so important to be standing on the sidelines at the Bingham Cup last weekend, watching teams from around the world huddle up, grunt, and groan on the pitch.

When a female couple asked if it was some sort of international league, I said, "Yes. Actually, it's a gay league. Those guys in orange are from England. The gray team is the Fog, and the black team is from Washington."

"Wow," one woman said. "Is that guy pulling the other guy's shorts off?"

"No, it's just the way they grab each other."

Wow, indeed. Despite a well-planned media blitz and clear, breezy skies, only a few dozen people observed from the stands. Yet it was a coup.

While heterosexual privilege results in hole-in-some fornication with a cynical glee, for gay teams, simply organizing a sports event devoid of sexual shenanigans is seen as unusual.

It shouldn't be.

Later that afternoon, I rode to

Yerba Buena Ice Rink to watch figure skaters from around the country practice for the next day's Skate Out. Ranging from eager beginners to pros, the swirling beauty of this artistic sport was made clear by the participants being out and proud of it.

Devoid of Olympic corruption, they steadfastly manage to break the ice, so to speak, of the sometimes monolithic unions governing their sport.

Monolithic as well were the shrill reactions to the completely justified decision about that "under God" part of the Pledge of Allegiance, conveniently inserted during a similar period of "Amurkan" history, the McCarthy-era 1950s.

Sports events around the country reeked of "God Bless America" choruses, forcing fans to believe that we're still the chosen ones, the sanctified saviors of all things Christian, all others be damned.

But as leak after rumor after conspiracy wriggle through the muddle of corporate-news, one thing is becoming clear.

Forcing kids to say "under God" won't make Homeland honchos anything less than the real evil-doers who fecklessly make jokes about 9/11 at million-dollar campaign dinners.

So imagine how difficult it was to tap along to the patriotic hymnals at the Gay Men's Chorus and Gay Freedom Band concert at Everett Middle School. Yet artistry overcame flag-waving sentiment.

It was still honorable, and touching, to hear musical tributes to gay fallen heroes like Mark Bingham. Because a gay hero/jock is simultaneously dissenting and patriotic.

Too much for the average "Amurkan" to handle, but with Enronics proving themselves beyond shame, who could dare complain? A pimping GOP golfer? A fear-mongering FBI fibber? A deluded Vegas nut-job intercepting bogus July 4 terrorist plots?

Obrigado

The joy of World Cup soccer extended the joy of male-male camaraderie often censored and denied by the increasingly weird "Amurkan" culture.

Soccer stars fling their jerseys off, kiss and hug, all gloriously free of constant commercial interruptions and felonious headline makers. Some Brazilian players take it even further.



Bruno Carvalho has a ball



David Beckham and Roberto Carlos shake and strip

Bruno Carvalho, recently of Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo Soccer Club, while not a World Cup participant, is a well-loved player in the sport. He's the latest in a string of famous South American sports stars to pose nude for G magazine.

Futbalistas Dinei and Vampeta have no problems being admired in their full-mast beauty, along with karate cutie Luis Barra.

True, the combination of low pay as jocks and attractive fees to pose nude may be an additional motivator.

But more and more, it seems obvious that the beleaguered United States is now forced to see its true face as a sometimes hated, often critiqued, and in sexual politics, backwards nation.

Will the comparatively corruption-free sport of soccer ever be truly accepted in mainstream sports outside of World Cup season and a million soccer mom's vans? Let's hope so.

Daring Déric

Exposing one's sexual orientation still causes a stir, but has led a few athletes to stake a claim in their respective worlds.

Professional distance runner Déric Peterson came out with the support of his sponsor, Adidas.

Peterson, the 2001 U.S. 800 meters indoor champion, will be featured in the July issue of *Genre* magazine.

Having spent much of the last few years in college at the University of Missouri, he is now the only out black professional athlete. No other active American black pro athlete has ever come out in the media. This helps explain Peterson's hesitation.

While sponsor Adidas hasn't boldly supported Peterson's decision, like diver David Pichler's sponsor Speedo, they continued to support him during and after his revelation.

"I called Adidas and told them that I was thinking of doing this story, and coming out publicly," Peterson told *Genre*. "They said, 'Great, that's not a problem at all.'"

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Bingham Cup Rugby Tournament semi-final scores

Spartans 34, Knights 0
 Rebellion 33, Renegades 0
 Fog A 42, Quake 3
 Steelers 43, Fog B 5
 Knights 10, Quake 8
 Rebellion 45, Fog B 0
 Fog A 15, Spartans 12
 Steelers 54, Renegades 0
 Spartans 50, Quake 0
 Renegades 10, Fog B 7
 Fog A 35, Knights 0
 Rebellion 14, Steelers 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

Visa controversy shadows Barcelona AIDS conference

by Bob Roehr

Controversy threatens to roil the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona even before it opens on Sunday, July 7. Charges are flying that the Spanish government is denying visas to participants from developing nations, even though it had pledged not to do so. Concerns over visas by conference organizers have kept them from scheduling the biennial event in the U.S. for more than a decade.

Many participants in a journalist-to-journalist training program on HIV have not been able to obtain Spanish visas, according to an e-mail to colleagues from prize-winning reporter and author Laurie Garrett, one of the organizers of the program.

The two and a half day training

session runs immediately before the main conference, as do several other satellite program activities. The National Press Foundation, based in the U.S., is taking the lead role in the project, with funding support from the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the Gates, Knight, and Kaiser foundations, and pharmaceutical companies Abbott and Merck.

As of June 28, only 35 of 72 journalists from developing countries who had been offered scholarships to attend the programs had been issued visas.

"It cannot be a coincidence that all of the people who are having trouble obtaining Spanish visas are African or Asian," said Garrett. Others from the developing world have been more blunt in calling the visa denials racist.

"As someone who has been covering the AIDS epidemic since

its inception in 1981, I can see no precedent for this behavior: in the 21-year history of this epidemic, no nation, to my knowledge, has so discriminated against journalists, scientists, and activists trying to attend the International AIDS Conference," Garrett wrote to Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS.

Only 24 hours before the start of the meeting, NPF president Bob Meyers, on the ground in Barcelona, said, "Things are in flux and are changing." He is "seeing a lot of e-mail traffic that visas are being issued," though he does not know if the participants will be able to arrive in time for the program.

"I don't really know what the impact is," he added.

Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, said they have been working with AIDS advocates

in developing nations in trying to obtain visas. "It's a problem of a bureaucracy out of control," he said.

The government in Madrid may say that it is issuing visas to every participant listed by conference organizers, but some embassies are adhering to rules saying that applicants must have sufficient financial resources for the travel, and stipends are not enough, Anderson explained.

Add to that the fact that in some places, such as Columbia, there is a six-month waiting list just to get an appointment at that embassy.

"This happens every time there is an international conference," said Anderson. "It is unfortunate but not surprising" in light of increased concerns in Europe about immigration and the risk of terrorism. "The conference will suffer from the limited participation from several countries." ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Greek great

Other warriors for the cause can be found on tennis courts, including a Wimbledon-level player who is rumored to be – eek! – straight.

Mark Philippoussis is known as a bit of a playboy. The Greek-descended Australian now lives in Miami and has a passion for sports cars and sexy babes.

The strapping 6 foot 4 inch pro player, ranked 16th in singles and 37th in doubles, has won over 116 matches in his career and made over \$2 million. His nicknames



Mark Philippoussis and his "fuckin' gay" tattoo

include Scud and Flip.

For a time, he dyed his hair blond, telling the press he got the idea from his favorite gay hairdresser. "I wanted something wild, so I told him to do whatever he wanted," he said.

But wait. There's more. Regarding the gorgeous tattoo of Alexander the Great on his right biceps, saith the Scud, "He was a fucking conqueror of the world, he was fucking Greek, and he was gay."

Buzz uncut

If only such blunt history lessons were taught in schools, more kids might have the bravery to come out, such as Cheshire, Connecticut's Dan Bozzuto.

According to the *Connecticut Post*, at his school's annual B1 Day, a series of speeches and events made to commemorate (and hopefully prevent) the horrors of the Columbine shootings, the popular jock offered news that shocked the hundreds of students and faculty.

"I am Dan Bozzuto," he said in his May speech. "I am just another student here at Cheshire High School, just another student who happens to be gay."

The junior class president, 10th in his class, and three-sport captain at Cheshire's cross country and indoor and outdoor track, is called a born leader.

But like many of his status, Bozzuto said he "felt one way, and

society felt another way. I talked about the girls I liked, or made fun of queers just to prove that I was straight."

During two assemblies in which Bozzuto addressed more than 1,000 students, his speech was greeted by thunderous ovations.

"I felt that a lot of good can come from this," Bozzuto explained of his decision to talk about his years of personal torture. "Once I came to the conclusion that this is something I should do, I never felt nervous about it."

Cheshire principal Salvatore Randazzo described Bozzuto as a young man of "incredible intelligence and maturity. Not all students would be able to do what he did, in this fashion."

"He is a great leader, an excellent captain," added Chris Pavlow, a senior. Junior Jim McDonald added a definitive description: "Buzz is the man."

Sport chat

You can be like Buzz by telling your story. Help continue the coverage of GLBT sports. If you're participating in Gay Games in

aerobics, badminton, basketball, billiards, bowling, cycling, ballroom dancing, diving, field hockey, golf, ice hockey, judo, netball, physique, squash, swimming, table tennis, or volleyball, pop an e-mail to jimproven@yahoo.com.

Sydney 2002 Gay Games last week passed a significant milestone when it welcomed its 10,000th participant, softball player Todd Vining of London, U.K.

Registrations have been received from more than 50 countries and territories. The biggest contingent is from the U.S. (4,030), followed by Australia (1,900), Germany (920), and then Canada, the Netherlands, and the U.K. with around 600 registrations each. Registrations have also been received from Antarctica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, China, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vietnam.

To register as a participant in Sydney 2002 Gay Games: www.sydneym2002.org.au. ▼

Click me at

www.sportscomplex.org.

Gay marriage

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Mike Marshall, executive director of Californians for Civil Marriage, said the polling data bolsters his organization's position that more education is needed around explaining gay marriage to voters. Through voter education initiatives, he said his organization wants to increase voter support in California for gay marriage by 10 percent within five years.

"It is very clear education is the issue," he said.

The lobbying group maintains that legislative efforts will not be successful without the education piece. They point to Vermont, where the state saw a two-year education campaign around the civil union movement and a recent educational campaign in New Jersey launched before the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed suit on behalf of several gay couples seeking marriage licenses.

"We can't win the right to marriage through litigation alone," said Shannon Minter, legal direc-

tor for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "When people are educated they move into our column. That is really what we need now; we need an intensive education campaign here in California."

While the poll is being touted to support gay marriage, the polling results also gives ammunition to those groups pushing for the state Legislature to adopt a civil unions bill in 2003. The polling found a majority of those voters surveyed support civil unions.

"The fact that over 55 percent of California voters support full recognition of same-sex relationships through civil unions will be very helpful in lobbying, not only on civil unions bill, but on other legislation," said Geoffrey Kors, interim executive director of California Alliance for Pride and Equality. "Presently, there is support for civil unions and the education work still needs to be done to get the necessary support so we will eventually have support for same-sex relationships through civil marriages."

To see the entire poll results, visit www.civilmarriage.org. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 258252

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sro Gallery, 116 Clifford Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94117-4506. This business is conducted by an individual signed David A. Peckman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/05/2002. JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258280

The following person(s) are doing business as: Suireside Trucking, 1099 23rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brendan John Bonnon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 6, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/06/2002. JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258301

The following person(s) are doing business as: Brian Chen Jewelry Mfg. 760 Market Street Suite 949, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian X. Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 13, 1988. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/07/2002. JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258260

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STATEMENT FILE 258351

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STATEMENT FILE 258279

The following person(s) are doing business as: Offbeat On Haight. 1599 A Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bassem R. Sirhed. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/06/2002. JUNE 13, 20, 27, JULY 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258176

The following person(s) are doing business as: Royal Ground Coffee. 2060 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002. JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258175

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wash N Royal. 2066 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002. JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258380

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Miguel Restaurant #2. 3263 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Juana Gomez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/11/2002. JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540321

In the Matter of the Application of Frederick Bernard Sims. For change of Name. The application of Frederick Bernard Sims for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frederick Bernard Sims, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Frederick Freedom Bernard Sims. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of August, 2002, at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

Lesbian Notions

◀ page 11

discussed his pretzel-like family cluster – lovers, ex-lovers, three-somes, fuck buddies, platonic friends, all entwined in each other's lives – my monogamous lesbian head hurt.

I believe, though, that lesbians and gay men making – and often having to remake – the effort to learn about each other's experiences is probably the best way to bridge the gap between us. Unfortunately, that's something we rarely choose to do and don't expect from each other. And, at the risk of sounding self-righteous, it's my experience that many more lesbians have familiarized themselves with gay male culture than vice versa.

But there are notable excep-

tions. I had a close gay male friend (he died in 1995) who had been a Fire Island party boy in the 1970s – someone a lesbian-feminist like myself would never, ever have hung with. When we met in 1990, he was searching for new meaning in his life, and he asked me to recommend some lesbian and feminist books, which he actually read and liked. His request both startled and touched me. Later, he returned the favor by lending me his favorite gay male porn, which I actually watched and liked. When the effort goes two ways, something positive can happen for everyone. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

BLACK INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-Hip) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-Hip at (415) 671-0214.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

A DAVID SMALL WORLD - Exhibition opening on THURSDAY, JULY 11th at the SF MAIN LIBRARY's Jewett Gallery, 100 Larkin Street in Civic Center includes a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by a special program with the Caldecott Medal winning illustrator David Small and author Sarah Stewart in the Koret Auditorium. Book sales & a book signing will be sponsored by Book Bay at the Main.

The exhibition of 63 framed works (watercolors, colored pencil, pen and ink drawings) from 14 of his books, including Imogene's Antlers, The Gardener, George Washington's Cows, and So You Want to Be President, showcases the artist's intriguing perspective and meticulous attention to detail. Exhibition appeals to all ages. Organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, Texas, the exhibition will be on view at the Library through September 1, 2002. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 557-4277.

Related Events (also free and open to the public)

STORYTELLING and BOOKSIGNING by artist David Small and author Sarah Stewart in person at the SUNSET BRANCH of the San Francisco Public Library, 1305 Eighteenth Avenue (at Irving), on SATURDAY, JULY 13TH from 4-5:30 p.m. WALTER THE GIANT will read from David Small books at SF Main Library's Fisher Children's Center on TUESDAY, JULY 16 AT 2:00 p.m. Call 557-4277 for more information.

JOB OPPORTUNITY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (DEPT. 22)

Senior Environmental Specialist. Coordinates the Environmental Justice Program, including oversight a \$13 million grant program for the Bayview Hunters Point and Potrero Hill neighborhoods. \$2,337 - \$2,841 biweekly - \$60,762 - \$73,866 Annual. www.sfdenviroment.org. 355-3700 Deadline 07/19/02

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS SURVEYING AND MAPPING SERVICES
The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency is seeking a panel of consultants to provide surveying and mapping services on an as-needed basis for all Redevelopment Project Areas, Survey Areas, and other designated sites.

Copies of Request for Qualifications may be obtained from:

Mr. Ara Derounian
Architecture & Engineering Dept.
SF Redevelopment Agency
770 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-3120
Tel: 415-749-2448

RESPONSES TO RFQs ARE DUE: FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2002, 4:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

The Department of the Environment's mission is to improve, enhance and preserve the environment and promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability.

The Department of the Environment seeks volunteers and interns for helping in the office and in the field (415) 554-6390.

STATEMENT FILE 258507

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cusum Entertainment And Production. 1419 Quesada Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94124. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Gregory L. Griffin and Carl E. Gardner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 14, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/14/2002.
JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257961

The following person(s) are doing business as: Doctor Diesel Truck Sales. 401 Terry Francis Blvd., #132, San Francisco, CA. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mark Anthony Armstrong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/23/2002.
JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258045

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ajilon Finance. 44 Montgomery Street, Ste. #2310, San Francisco, CA. 94104. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Diana R. Karabelas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2002.
JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258572

The following person(s) are doing business as: Geneva Jacuzzi And Tanning. 974 Geneva Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thuy Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 13, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/17/2002.
JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258140

The following person(s) are doing business as: Echohome Interior Design. 1206 4th Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Susan Williamson/president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/31/2002.
JUNE 27, JULY 3, 11, 18, 2002



STATEMENT FILE 258775

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cecile & Jeanne. 2086 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA. 94123. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Perry M. Bryer, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/26/2002.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540315

In the Matter of the Application of Aaron Dean Beierschmitt For change of Name.
The application of Aaron Dean Beierschmitt for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Aaron Dean Beierschmitt, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Aaron Dean Toomey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of August, 2002, at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JUNE 20, 27, JULY 3, 11, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258720

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jack Austin & Associates. 2800 Filbert Street, #6, San Francisco, CA. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jack A. Austin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 24, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/24/2002.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 258700

The following person(s) are doing business as: Danya Enterprises. 468 Tehama Apt. #7, San Francisco, CA. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Robinson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/21/2002.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258845

The following person(s) are doing business as: At Home Fertility Services 1530 Dolores Street #6 San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an general partnership signed Jennifer Bauman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/24/2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/28/2002.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540290

In the Matter of the Application of Patricia deBeruff Waite. For change of Name. The application of Patricia deBeruff Waite for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Patricia deBeruff Waite has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Joseph DeBeruff Waite. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 3, 11, 18, 25, 2002

LEGAL MATTERS

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CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS OFFERED

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #219
Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals interested in contracting to serve as the Ombudsman for the Family and Children's Services Division. The Ombudsman acts as a liaison between the SFDHS and the children and families accessing the services of the SFDHS. The Ombudsman resolves complaints from clients and foster and adoptive parents by maintaining telephone hotlines to receive queries and responding promptly to those queries. The Ombudsman will gather information and file official complaints when necessary. Most importantly, the Ombudsman will serve as an impartial intermediary between the complainant and the appropriate Department staff in order to effect a fair resolution of the situation.
The contract period will run from 7/1/02 to 6/30/03 for an amount to be determined.
An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Monday, July 1, 2002. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.
The RFQ packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after July 1, 2002.
Go to <http://UNSET.CLSFCAUS/IBIDS.NSF> and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.
The Respondents' Conference will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at 10:00 AM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson, at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is Wednesday, July 31, 2002 at 5:00 PM.
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LARKIN STREET Youth Services

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Larkin Street Youth Services (LSYS) is a nationally recognized San Francisco non-profit, which provides a full range of care to homeless and runaway youth between the ages of 12-23. Our mission is, "To create a continuum of services that inspire youth to move beyond the streets. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all."

Because of continued organizational growth and new programs, we are currently accepting resumes for the following positions:

Development Coordinator: Assist in all aspects of individual, corporate and foundation donor relations and solicitation. Support marketing and event strategies as well as efforts to increase income from various organization constituencies. Must be a team player that thrives in a fast-paced environment while maintaining a sense of humor. Excellent writing and communication skills required. Ability to work independently and as a member of the team. Must be able to manage diverse tasks simultaneously. B.A degree, and a minimum of 2 years prior development experience required. Direct Mail, Grant preparation and Special Event experience strongly preferred. \$39 - 42K DOE.

HIV Prevention Coordinator: This newly created position is designed to enhance and implement HIV prevention strategies throughout our continuum of services. The ideal candidate will have advanced knowledge of HIV/AIDS and prevention strategies, risk-reduction strategies, excellent communication and planning skills. Understanding of client-centered HIV prevention intervention strategies; experience developing curricula and implementing new programs. Experience coordinating HIV prevention services and HIV Risk Assessment and Disclosure counseling program: Certified HIV test counselor for at least 3 years. Experience working with at-risk youth, preferably with homeless and runaway adolescents and young adults. BA required. MA or MSW preferred. Supervise all aspects of HIV prevention program at multiple LSYS sites and at collaborating agencies. Supervise HIV prevention and testing counselors. Develop HIV Prevention curricula and supervise group- and individual-level HIV prevention interventions. \$39 - 42K DOE.

Substance Abuse Services Coordinator (SASC): The successful candidate will implement LSYS' Substance Abuse initiative at 6 program sites, coordinate the efforts of 7 Substance Abuse Specialists, directly supervise 3 Peer Counselors, facilitate weekly team meetings, and coordinate the substance abuse training curriculum. The SASC will lead the agency in the modification of the substance abuse intervention to address the unique needs of homeless and runaway youth ages 12 - 23. Ability to work with actively using clients in creating life-stabilization plans. The Coordinator will partner closely with the research and evaluation department to collect and document qualitative and quantitative data that reflects the effectiveness of the substance abuse interventions. Program management responsibilities include grant-reporting and budget management, personnel and hiring, including recruiting of staff (with HR). Masters in counseling field, and three to five years of experience working with adolescents. Two years of supervisory experience preferred. \$41 - 44K DOE.

All positions are full time and receive medical, dental, vision, long-term disability, life, legal, and employee assistance plan. Three weeks vacation accrual in first year, twelve agency holidays annually.

Larkin Street Youth Services is an equal opportunity employer. We place a high value on workforce diversity.

Send cover letters and resumes to:
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Position announcement
Program Manager

The Living Center is a new contract from the County of Santa Clara and is envisioned as a peer-driven drop-in HIV/AIDS program and facility. The contractor, Positive Resources of Santa Clara County, seeks a full-time Program Manager who will establish and manage the Living Center facility and programs, and has the ability to particularly focus on the needs of ethnic populations and the needs of women.

Job Summary. The Program Manager will establish and manage a facility that is a safe and supportive environment for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and provides direct services such as support groups and peer counseling as well as programs designed to increase accessibility to existing HIV services in Santa Clara County. The Program Manager must be able to focus on the needs of ethnic populations and the needs of women, both of who have special concerns relating to accessibility and other barriers to services. In recognition of the fact that the majority of HIV infected people in Santa Clara County are gay men, the Program Manager will work closely with the local Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community to make sure their specific needs and concerns are met. Substantive experience with HIV/AIDS issues is necessary. The Program Manager will report to the President of the Board of Directors.

Job Responsibilities. The Program Manager will be responsible for:

- Identifying and developing programming to meet the needs of underserved populations within the HIV/AIDS community of Santa Clara County
- Collaborating with other agencies to establish and maintain memorandums of understanding (MOUs)
- Hiring, training, and supervision of a half-time Volunteer Coordinator
- Creating an office dedicated to out-stationed agencies with related infrastructure
- Complying with 100% of the Santa Clara County contract reporting requirements.
- Planning and encouraging involvement of clients in community forums, meetings, and surveys.
- Budget monitoring, strategic planning, developing and managing interagency relationships and similar administrative functions.

Qualifications. The successful candidate will bring the following:

- Three to five years of relevant HIV/AIDS experience, and college degree or equivalent managerial experience;
- Demonstrated commitment and leadership skills in health services
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically and creatively
- Proven ability to convene, organize, and sustain partnerships with other agencies
- Proven ability to move a project from conception to realization
- Excellent writing, and communication skills
- Ability and desire to work in a small, collegial, fluid organization.

How To Apply. Submit a letter of interest addressing the qualifications, three references, and resume to:

Charles L. Evans
Positive Resources of SCC
55 Clifftown Court
Milpitas, CA, 95035-4345
charles@evansgroup.net (e-mail)

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. No phone calls, please. Positive Resources strongly encourages women, HIV+ persons, persons of color, those that are bilingual, and persons with disabilities to apply.

Revised May 22, 2002

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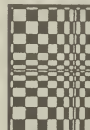
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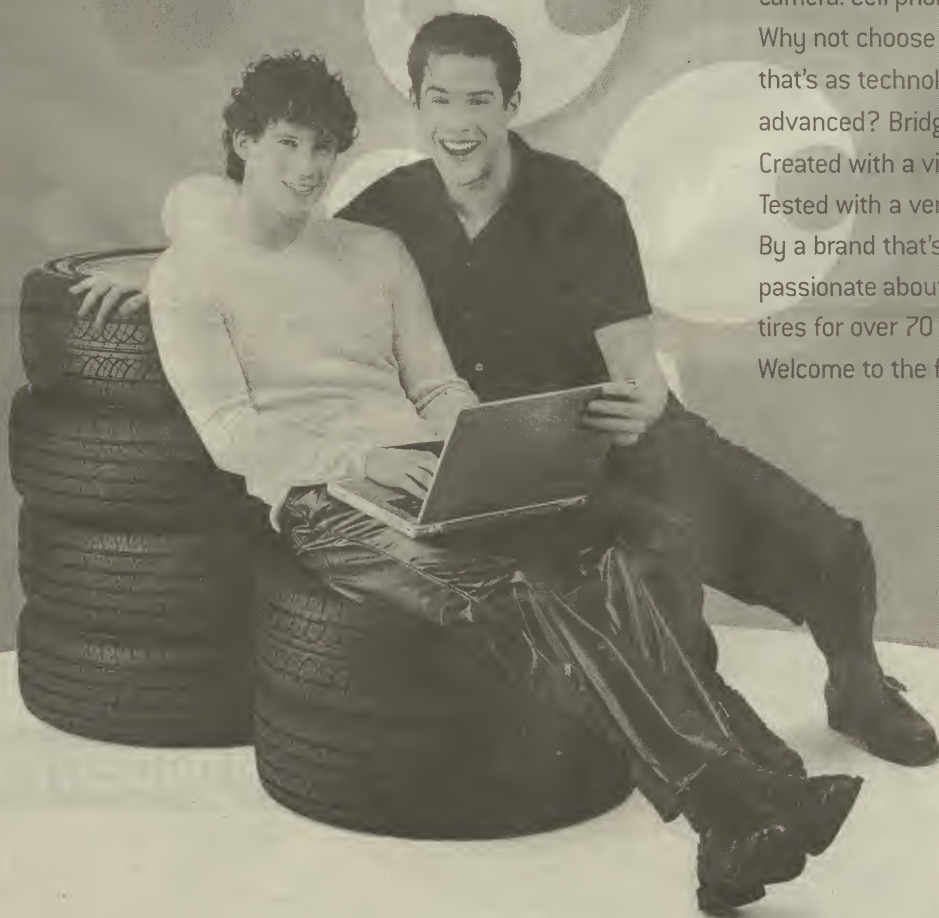
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page 33

Sweeney and 'Company'
Report from the Sondheim
Festival in Washington, DC.
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Roddy Bottum is 'On'
Imperial Teen to play the
Fillmore next Thursday.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Extraordinary intimacy

by David Lamble

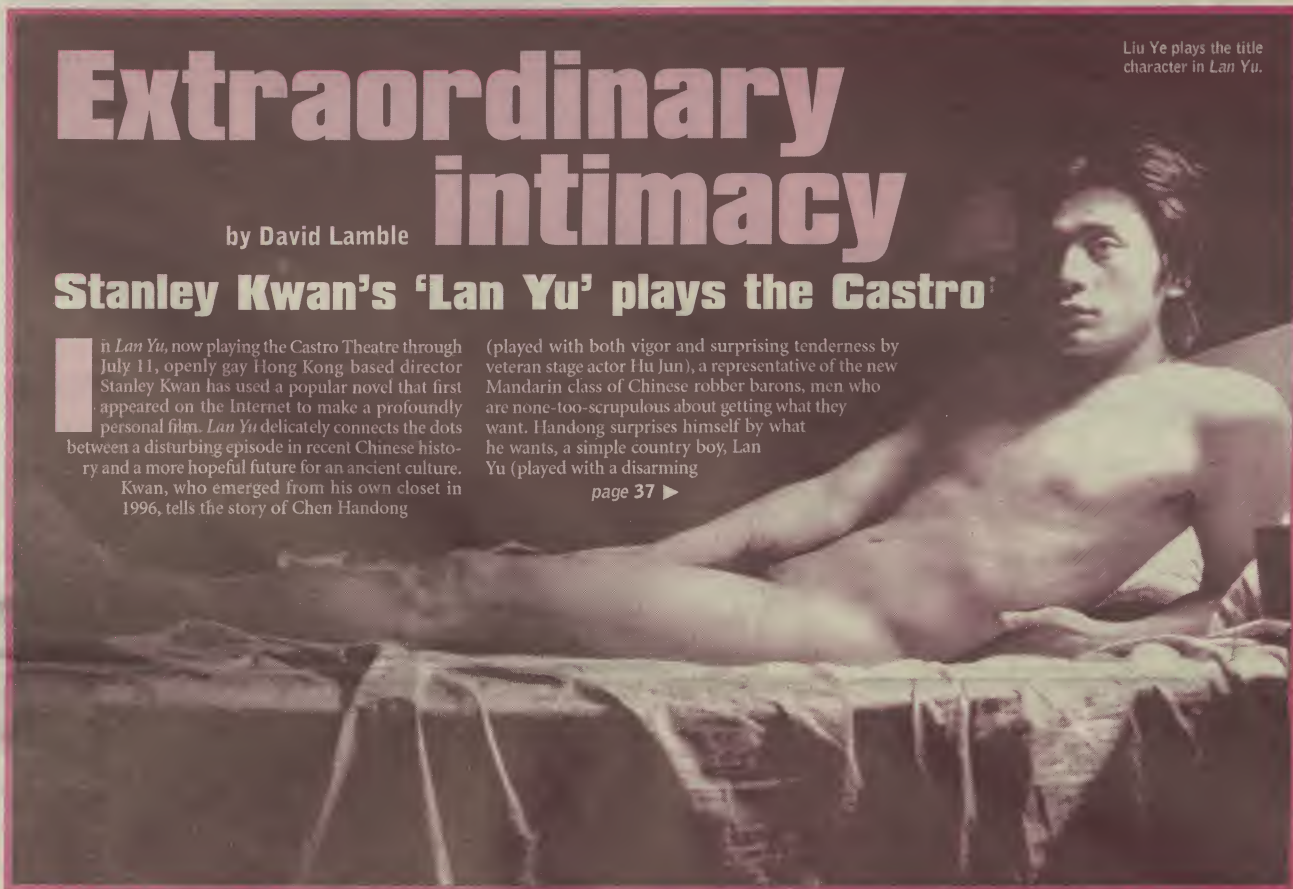
Stanley Kwan's 'Lan Yu' plays the Castro

In *Lan Yu*, now playing the Castro Theatre through July 11, openly gay Hong Kong based director Stanley Kwan has used a popular novel that first appeared on the Internet to make a profoundly personal film. *Lan Yu* delicately connects the dots between a disturbing episode in recent Chinese history and a more hopeful future for an ancient culture. Kwan, who emerged from his own closet in 1996, tells the story of Chen Handong

(played with both vigor and surprising tenderness by veteran stage actor Hu Jun), a representative of the new Mandarin class of Chinese robber barons, men who are none-too-scrupulous about getting what they want. Handong surprises himself by what he wants, a simple country boy, Lan Yu (played with a disarming

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Liu Ye plays the title character in *Lan Yu*.



Queers in Toon Town

by Web Behrens

Say hello to openly gay characters in animation

The gang from Showtime's *Queer Duck* confronts the evil Dr. Laura.



Imagine this: You just moved to Toon Town, the land where Roger Rabbit and all his cartoon compadres live, and got yourself a new job at the Census Bureau. Toon Town's a pretty big place, so this is a pretty big job: think about the multitude of animated species you're responsible for cataloguing! You canvass all the boroughs, from Disneyville to Warner Brothersburg to Hanna-Barbera Hamlet, where you encounter cartoons of all shapes, sizes and colors. But try as hard as you can, there's one thing you just can't find. You search for the cartoon Castro, but there is no Boys' Town in Toon Town.

Unless you travel halfway around the human world to the land of Japanimation, you can't yet find enough openly queer characters to populate their own animated 'hood. True, there are plenty of questionable types who have the neighbors asking questions. Betty Boop is starting to wonder why Velma from *Scooby-Doo* always invites her to the golf tournament, while Simba (the *Lion King* himself) is finally figuring out why everyone else calls Pumbaa and Timon the "funny uncles." And everyone except Elmer (be)Fudd(led) has a gaydar that goes off when Bugs Bunny makes his umpteenth appearance in Carmen Miranda drag.

But none of those sissies will be carrying the banner in Toon Town's first Pride Parade. No, the candidates for that gig are few — though their numbers are growing. Today, characters like *Queer Duck* and Jonas Morecock are leading the way. Showtime's *Queer Duck* blazes trails with a few cuddly cartoon animals who come out to their families,

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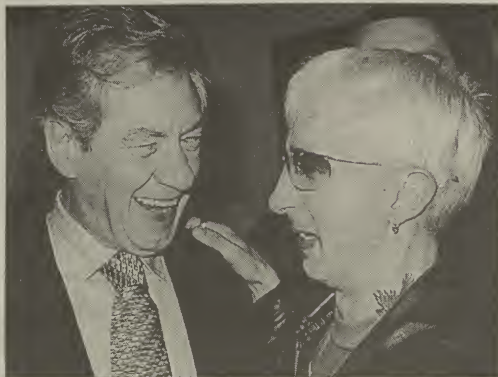


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by Roberto Friedman
and Cathé Society

Truth be told, Out There has never been much of a social climber. The serious social striver must work a room, seeking out people more important or famous, while shunning anyone less. This offends our basically democratic sensibilities, so we're more of a social jogger: we don't go very far or fast, but we get all sweaty nonetheless. **Gay Pride Week** is, of course, the supreme workout for persons with our job description. Forthwith, a few highlights from the Whirlwind That Was:

At the Herbst Theatre, director **Milford Thomas**' fanciful feature *Claire* meets an overwhelming Frameline Fest audience response. President of the Board of Supes **Tom Ammiano** takes the stage to wild applause, in order to pro-



Sir Ian McKellen laughs with Marc Almond at the SF Pride media party.

claim **Sister Missionary P. De-Light** Day in SF (Mish is one of *Claire*'s leading men), which gives Tom the chance to do his "As Mayor of Emerald City..." shtick. Ammiano notes the irony of his outspoken self introducing a silent film.

Press lunch at the Park Grill hosted by our friends at the **Berlin Tourismus** board. They're not worried about the day's reports that terrorists might try to blow up Berlin's annual hedonistic **Love Parade**. Can't stop the love. A guidebook writer seated to our left says, "You went to Stanford, and I went to Berkeley. We shouldn't even be talking to each other!"

Next night, SF Pride hosts a lively party for media at the SF LGBT Community Center. The boys from **Dead Or Alive** stand off to themselves in a little circle, neither dead nor alive for a press availability. Brit rock star **Marc Almond** mixes it up with the *hoi polloi*. BAR assistant editor **Matthew Bajko**, who's always being told he's the spitting image of Marc Almond, confirms that he does look like Almond — 20 years ago.

Full house in the Press Room at Davies Hall before the opening of the SF Symphony's semi-staged production of **Rimsky-Korsakov's** opera-ballet *Mlada*. We're living in a golden moment for countertenors, with **David**

Daniels wowing 'em across Grove St. in *Giulio Cesare*, and **Brian Asawa** silver-toned as **Lumir** in this *Mlada*, but the tabloid *Examiner* can still cluelessly proclaim, in a headline about Daniels, that he sings "like a girl!"

At a late-night afterparty with the artists in the **Wattis** Room, beloved ballerina **Evelyn Cisneros**, who danced the Princess who sounds like a sportscar, gives maestro **Michael**

Tilson Thomas a big, womanly hug. Drinking like a Russian, OT admires brawny bass **Tigran Martirosian**, who sang **Prince Mstivoy**, from afar. Somehow, baritone **Vladimir Glushchak** (**High Priest**) looks more potentially doable.

Reverse psychology: **Enviro-heroin** and tree-saver **Julia Butterfly Hill** comes up to our little group at the Radical Faerie Village on Pride Day! And **Pansy Division's** **Jon Ginoli**, attracted by our date **Pepi's** "Democracy: We Deliver!" (by bomber jets) T-shirt, approaches us at the Frameline Fest closer! Celebs who social-climb us, what a concept.

Off to see the wizard

Bright and early in the a.m., BAR news editor **Cynthia Laird** and Out There are ushered into Pride Grand Marshal **Sir Ian McKellen's** deluxe Tai Pei Suite at the 5-star Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Sir Ian is sure that Parade Day will dawn sparkly and sunny, even though today the suite's wrap-around terrace is shrouded in fog. We're charmed that his temporary digs already feel lived-in: there's coffee brewing, and an ironing board is set up for a quick pressing.

When Out There wonders why the US doesn't have a celebrity of McKellen's stature who is willing to be such an outspoken political activist, the Knighted One modestly supplies a long list of American luminaries who have entered

the political discourse, starting with author **Armistead Maupin** and ending with filmmaker **Robert Redford**. Well, yes, but nobody he mentions could ever play **Richard III**!

What advice would Sir Ian give other prominent actors on coming out to the media and the world? "Enjoy yourself! Life is always better when you're honest. It isn't true that your career will automatically wither. My film career has blossomed!"

When talk turns to home, McKellen says he's disappointed with New Labour so far. After decreeing that the British military accept openly gay people as its first act in power, PM **Tony Blair's** government hasn't measured up. "I expected some day they'd be progressive, but they've not been. We still have that offensive Section 28, which prohibits schools from taking any positive stance on homosexuality."

After his star turn in SF Pride, McKellen is off to Vancouver, British Columbia, for three months on a film shoot. When we ask impertinently whether his cute young boyfriend will be joining him there, he says with a twinkle in his eye: "I certainly hope so!"

P.S. When **Lord Somebody**, the "man on the street" for TV-20, interviewed Sir Ian, the first question a befuddled Ian had for Lordy Lord was, with a look of slight disgust, "Why are you shouting at me?" To which the wayward Lord was left momentarily speechless.

Ah well, Knights will Knights, Lords will be Lords, and Queens will be Queens!

Think Pink

There we were, burning the midnight oil at the BAR last week — putting the finishing touches on the annual hell that is our massive Pride issue — when a huge tour-bus rolled up. We remembered that famed NYC drag queen **Lady Bunny** was slated to perform at Trannysnack that night, just downstairs at the Stud. Does Bunny really make enough money from Wigstock to afford a tour bus?

Of course not! The tour bus belonged to pop singer **Pink**, in town for a show at the Warfield — and an afterparty at Trannysnack! She arrived with a decidedly dykeish entourage, not surprising since ex-**Four Non-Blondes** leader **Linda Perry** produced and co-wrote Pink's latest album, *Missundaztood*, and got **Janis Tanaka**, formerly of SF's late, great girl rock band **Stone Fox**, to play bass on Pink's current tour. The singer hung out, played pool, and, after Lady Bunny trashed her, came up on stage. She wasn't able to say anything to the crowd, though — there was simply no tearing the mike away from the Lady Buns. Never come between a drag queen and her microphone!

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The Lady Bunny upstages Pink at Trannysnack.

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ABBA-cadabra

'Mamma Mia!' returns to San Francisco

by Richard Dodds

It may be a false comfort, but the world suddenly seemed a little less grim by the end of *Mamma Mia!* Who'd have thought that 25 years ago, when ABBA was on its jingle juggernaut, that these seemingly inane songs would someday become a solace for a shaken society?

That probably sounds like oversell, but to be among 2,000 theatergoers at the Orpheum on our feet, grinning like fools, and sharing in one another's enthusiasms felt, in the moment, joyful.

Even sophisticated San Francisco has been fertile ground for the *Mamma Mia!* phenomenon, providing a successful launching pad for the national tour, a tour begun before its opening on Broadway. Not long after the SF run, a return engagement was announced, and now that run is being promised through Sept. 14.

Still, there was the question of whether such a confection, as cleverly crafted as it may be, could hold onto its fun-factor on a second viewing. The answer is yes, and *Mamma Mia!* remains by far the best feel-good musical around. It's not the best musical around, but it makes sure we all know it doesn't take itself too seriously. That's the best defense against knitted-brow criticism.

The story imagined by Catherine Johnson has as its main duty not to tell a thoughtful story, but to make sure that the story finds excuses for the cast to perform 22 ditties from the ABBA songbook. Some of the songs do seem writ-



Broadway veteran Dee Hoty (center) is Donna in the *Mamma Mia!* tour.

ten for a moment in the story, but more often the machinations are so blatant that you can't help but laugh.

The set is that same all-purpose unit that looks to be built from a cistern. It represents various locations on a small Greek isle where single-mom Donna runs a taverna, and where 20-year-old daughter Sophie is using her impending wedding to find out just who her father is. When she invites three likely suspects to the wedding, her mother is horrified at the sight of these ex-lovers. It all ends happily, but you knew that.

The current cast is every bit as good as the company that first passed through town, even though the Broadway production scooped up terrific Louise Pitre for its Donna. Broadway veteran

Dee Hoty is less earthy, but she creates her own appealing version, and she has the pipes to tear into her character's "Winner Takes It All" showstopper.

By savvy design, the creators of this production manage to have their way with both gay and straight audiences. The story, after all, is all about a heterosexual marriage and liaisons, but the earthly delights are provided to those with an appreciation for buffed male form in various forms of beachwear. All this and ABBA, too. Who are we to ask for anything more? ▼

***Mamma Mia!* will run at the Orpheum Theatre through Sept. 14. Tickets are \$38-\$78. Call 512-7770.**

'Meat' me for a hot time

Nat'l Queer Arts Fest's smorgasbord

by Zak Szymanski

It's hard to muster up the energy to go to yet another queer performance during the last few days of June. But those who made it to *Fresh Meat*, the debut queer and transgender cabaret at the ODC Theater on June 25 & 26, were able to experience exactly what they had been missing all summer: a show that transformed the audience from spectators into members of the groovy revolution.

No, *Fresh Meat* was not consistently overtly political. It didn't have to be: its mission was to provide a venue for populations underrepresented in the arts. With that came new messages and meanings, often accompanied by high-energy perfectionism. Mario Balcita's "In a Fat Gay Boy's Skin," for instance, commanded an almost relieved discomfort by airing how the community's body obsessions relate to intimacy. And Deep Dick Collective's "Intro to the Famous Outlaw League of Proto-Negroes" wittily drew attention to gay racism and black homophobia with its chant, "Don't let faggots call you nigger, and don't let niggers call you faggot."

But the surprise stand-outs were in the show's dance numbers, strikingly moving works that somehow managed, with few or no words, to convey a bigger



Shawna Virago (left) and *Fresh Meat* performers energized the audience.

picture. "Box," by the dance company Steamroller, used actual anti-gay messages from dancer Jesse Bie's answering machine as the soundtrack for a genre-packed choreographed exchange. The intricate tango steps by Debby Kajiyama and Jose Navarrete sneaked in gradually to convey enormous power from two of the smallest statures on stage. And House of Vogue's deliberate stances were designed to "take voguing back to its roots in black inner-city gay culture" and stay "true to the street and battle elements of the ballroom," according to the artists.

Fresh Meat billed itself as "the

smorgasbord" of the National Queer Arts Festival, offering a little bit of everything. And while it could have whittled its line-up down to all dance and music, its inclusion of other voices, in the form of spoken word or skits, often provided a much-needed change of mood or pace.

Sean Dorsey, *Fresh Meat's* founder, who also danced in the performances, said the show was originally created in response to the Tranny Fest film festival and the Gay and Lesbian Dance Festival taking hiatuses this year. But it has already become apparent that this tasty cabaret is nowhere near its expiration date. ▼

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Fantasy and strife, a Russian sojourn

San Francisco Symphony wraps up Russian Festival with 'Mlada'

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony's Russian Festival ended last week amid excited shouts of audience approval and giddy self-congratulation among performers and off-stage participants. The general exhilaration was understandable, considering the remarkable success of the entire massive undertaking.

From the intimate opening symposium to the truly grand finale, Rimsky-Korsakov's fantastic opera *Mlada*, this was a series of uncommon interest and consistently high musical values. With Michael Tilson Thomas on the podium throughout and a parade of exceptional guest soloists, the celebration of Russia's rich musical heritage will go down in memory with the Mahler and Stravinsky festivals as the benchmark for such events.

There were several delightful "finds" among the performing artists. Mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretzky appeared at short notice for contralto Nathalie Stutzmann, who was unable to perform in Shostakovich's wonderful *From Jewish Folk Poetry*. Her steady and beautiful voice revealed a singer on the brink of stardom. Poretzky also made an indelible impression as the evil Morena in *Mlada*. Her renditions of various songs at the symposium further illustrated a gratifying character and depth.



Mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretzky

Soprano Ljuba Kazarnovskaya betrayed more "Slavonic wobble" in her contributions to the Shostakovich song cycle and the role of Princess Voislava in the Rimsky-Korsakov opera. Many will consider that generous vibrato and slightly acid edge an idiomatic trait of Russian technique. Her attractive stage presence and passionate involvement also earned high marks with listeners.

Among the men, the best contributions came in *Mlada*. A smoldering performance by Armenian bass Tigran Martirosian as the bad Prince Mstivoy contrasted well with the rather face-

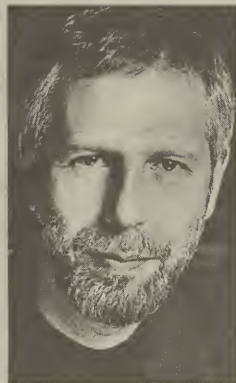
less but pleasingly sung good Prince Yaromir of tenor Gegam Grigorian.

In smaller parts, countertenor Brian Asawa, with his haunting tone and exquisite pitch, was predictably excellent as the Czech bard Lumir. Baritone Vladimir Glushchak as the High Priest and tenor David Peters and bass-baritone Philip Skinner as the First and Second Tradesmen earned special mention as well.

Non-singing soloists also burned up the stage during the festival. We've already noted pianist Garrick Ohlsson; Vladimir Feltsman was next at the concert grand. His incendiary rendition of Prokofiev's rarely heard Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor ended with both performer and audience on their feet. Feltsman jumped from the keys in a final gesture of strength and triumph, and the crowd leapt up at the same time in wild acclaim. It was a vindication for the concerto, and a fabulous example of Feltsman's almost frightening virtuosity — the musician as athlete.

Art's reply

The most completely satisfying evening overall was devoted to one of the 20th century's most tortured artists. Titled *An Artist's Response: Music of Shostakovich*, the concert portrayed several aspects of the composer's complicated response to writing under an oppressive regime.



Pianist Vladimir Feltsman: sparks

As a closet subversive, Shostakovich lived in terror of Stalin's disapproval. When *Pravda* singled him out for criticism, he responded with the massive Symphony No. 5. Supposedly optimistic in tone, it proved that no one could write more sardonically. Aside from the gloriously empty bombast of the victory march, the Fifth also contains some of the composer's most rueful and sorrowful thoughts.

Coming at long last to Shostakovich, Tilson Thomas has shaken off all memories of his mentor Leonard Bernstein's links to the composer. The drama and orchestral brilliance of these wonderful scores are a natural for MTT. The affinity he shows for Mahler can find a more contemporary home with the likewise universal voice of the frightened Russian genius.

The performance of the Symphony was lovingly, brilliantly crafted. Perhaps, MTT's own Russian roots may allow him a deeper understanding. It is certain that his maturity and musical mastery can lend an almost unbearable poignancy to such an

amazing outpouring of emotion.

The Shostakovich concert also exhibited feelings of a more intimate nature. *From Jewish Folk Poetry* is a charming and musically sophisticated collection of songs. Tenor Vsevolod Grivnov joined with Poretzky and Kazarnovskaya to portray a varied range of characters. It was a happy discovery for audience members unfamiliar with the composer's impressive vocal works.

Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mlada* is called an opera, but it is really a spectacular hybrid, equal parts ballet, symphony and choral cantata. The SFS performances utilized a semi-staged approach, with attractive scenic and costume designs by Sandra J. Woodall, stage direction by Peter McClintock, and marvelously effective lighting by Jack Carpenter.

The production trio has previously worked for the SF Ballet, with another alumnus, Val Caniparoli, joining them as choreographer. Prima ballerina Evelyn Cisneros came out of retirement to dance his steps as the titular heroine Princess Mlada.

No one could pretend that Rimsky-Korsakov's ambitious offering is unflawed. The story is fairy-tale claptrap, and the singers must contend with a nonsensical libretto. Still, the music is fabulous, and it had a tremendous influence on such composers as Stravinsky and Prokofiev. The luminous transparency of the orchestration must have impressed Debussy as well.

The choral writing is gorgeous, and Vance George's SFS Chorus managed the Russian text with their customary aplomb. The singers were uniformly excellent, and La Cisneros was breathtaking, though she had little physical space in which to dance. Some lovely posing highlighted her performance, and an entrance from the audience was wonderfully theatrical. ▼

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Candide is coming

by Philip Campbell

July is cold in San Francisco, but that doesn't mean there won't be some hot times indoors at Davies Hall. The venerable Pops concerts have evolved in recent years into the *Summer in the City* series, a more formal season of sit-down offerings sans picnic baskets. The most highly anticipated events are three staged concert performances of Leonard Bernstein's legendary *Candide*, July 18-20.

Numerous revivals have not corrected the book problems with every musical-lover's favorite cult classic. Still, it has always sported an embarrassment of riches in the glorious music and outrageously clever lyrics by Lillian Hellman, Dorothy Parker, John La Touche and Stephen Sondheim. Bernstein's concert version dumps most of the dialogue, and concentrates on the cynical wit of the score.

Leave it to Lenny to have created a genuine Broadway operetta. The influences are a riotous blend of everyone from Strauss to Paganini, but the sound is vintage Bernstein. The world-weary wisdom of Voltaire comes to brilliant life, and the results are often hilarious.

The cast for this go-round features Jason Danieley as Candide. The talented, handsome actor starred in the most recent Broadway revival, and his wife Marin Mazzie (star of *Kiss Me, Kate*) plays the saucy maid Paquette. George Hearn follows his triumph last summer in *Sweeney Todd* as Voltaire/Pangloss, and the fabulous Rita Moreno is the Old Lady. Her version of "I Am So Easily Assimilated" should be a hoot.

The San Francisco Symphony is the "pit band." The SFS Chorus will join them. Jennifer Welch-Babidge and the estimable Stanford Olsen fill out the cast, and the conductor is Patrick Summers. The shows will likely be the hot ticket of the series, as the concert performances of *Sweeney Todd* were all sell-outs. It looks like the champagne and caviar will be onstage for this Pops concert. ▼

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Independence Day revisited

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Nothing like a flag or a colonoscopy to remind one of the power of democracy. Here it is the first Independence Day since 9-11, and our civics lesson comes not from remembering the heroism of Americans who gave their lives in the struggles for freedom both here and abroad, but from watching the rally-round-the-flag cry over the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that the phrase "under God" rendered the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional, and seeing the President tell the nation he'd be "out of it" for a while during a routine colonoscopy and was thus making a formal transfer of power through the Congress to the Vice-President because these are "times of war." "Not for too long," the President quipped, perhaps imagining Dr. Strangelove, er, we mean Dick Cheney, rubbing his hands like some Bondian villain at the prospect of having control of the world's last remaining superpower, if only for a few hours.

We take TV for granted. Perhaps because so much of what airs is dreck, we eschew TV as low-brow and unnecessary. But consider all we are privy to simply because this electronic medium exists and the majority of us have access to it.

We have never been to Alaska, for example, though that pristine wilderness is a place we would like to visit before the Republicans destroy it completely. *Good Morning America* correspondent Don Dahler was there last week reporting for the ABC morning show. The vistas were breathtaking, the

factoids intriguing, and we felt, just a bit, as if we had been on a little trip into the wilderness.

Likewise, we have never been to China or North Korea. The *Nightline* series shown over the past two weeks was chilling, detailing the catastrophic famine in North Korea (2 million people have died of starvation in the past three years alone), and the at-

tempts by many North Koreans to flee to China, where they must hide their identities or be deported and imprisoned for life, or even executed.

Except for its role as a "rogue nation" and part of George Bush's triptych

of evil, North Korea flies under the international radar. As does the starvation of its citizens. Good TV takes us on journeys we otherwise would not make.

Slander & slap-down

Much as we love *Nightline*, as it is an unparalleled public service program and deserves a full hour from the network, we are quite miffed that its extension comes at the expense of the only balanced, articulate and edgy talk show on network TV, *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher. After nearly 10 years providing a rousing mix of liberals and conservatives, men and women, whites and people of color, Jews and Muslims, gays and straights and all manner of other political configurations on his program, Maher's last show aired June 28. *PI* was tossed by ABC after Maher said days after 9-11 what everyone, including Bush, says now: the terrorists who attacked on 9-11 are tougher than we gave them credit for. One of Maher's frequent guests has been the ever-annoying pin-up girl for sexy conservatism, Ann Coulter.

Maher was one of the few to face Coulter down, though Katie Couric did a fine job this past week when Coulter did a guest turn on *The Today Show* to promote her new book trashing the "liberal" media, *Slander*. Though Couric didn't actually slap Coulter, it did look for a few minutes like the fighting femmes might duke it out. We think Couric won. We know she has a better colorist and way better shoes.

The irony of Maher's dissenting voice being silenced days before Independence Day is not lost on us. Maher is too smart and savvy (and funny) to be left idling for long. Cable will no doubt snap him up. But cable doesn't need Maher's irreverent voice, network TV does.

When *Nightline* goes to an hour on July 15, Ted Koppel's first guest will be David Letterman. We like Letterman a lot, but this isn't what we'd hoped for that extra half-hour. Where ABC hasn't failed is with its reality TV offerings this summer. The stellar series *Houston Medical* and *State V* provide VCR alerts every Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

HIV/AIDS gets little airplay these days, since the epidemic ended in the minds of TV execs. Where it still features regularly is the unlikely venue of soap opera. Perhaps because so many of the cast and crew have been touched by the disease, the Day of Compassion (which this year received not a single mention from any of the major networks on either their newscasts or morning shows) got top billing on a few soaps, notably ABC's *All My Children* (which also features the only queer storyline on TV; tune in this week for Bianca's lesbian turn at the prom with her dead girlfriend's twin sister) and *General Hospital*, which, with NBC's *Young and the Restless*, featured television's first AIDS storylines back in the days when then-

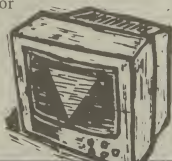
Pres. Reagan had yet to mention the word, and some of us were spending our days chanting, "Say it!" outside the White House. Kudos to the soaps for remembering their (and our) dead and those, like some of the characters, living with the disease.

Kudos also to NBC's Tim Russert for holding Sen. John Kerry's feet to the fire last weekend on *Meet the Press* over the issue of queer marriage. Discussing Kerry's likely bid for the 2004 Democratic Presidential run, Russert queried Kerry on his mixed messages on the subject. Kerry was one of a mere handful of Congresspeople who voted against the despicable Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA), but doesn't support queer marriage, though he does support domestic partnership and other legal benefits for queers. Russert tried to get Kerry to explain the contradictions, but as most of us know from bitter expe-

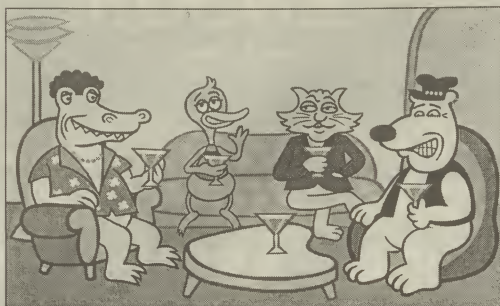
rience, gut-level bigotry simply has no explanation.

Finally, without TV we would not have witnessed the rise and fall of Martha Stewart in all its fantastical proportion over the past few weeks. We loved David Letterman asking Martha's buddy Tom Brokaw whether Martha was "going away" to prison. Brokaw, Letterman's fishing buddy, demurred. But the apogee came at week's end when Martha, wielding a knife and looking just a tad too much like her caricaturish counterpart Anna Gasteier on *Saturday Night Live*, basically told Jane Clayson on CBS's *The Early Show* to shut up and quit asking her questions about the stock market, and let her finish making her salad, dammit.

Really. Where would we be without TV? Dishless in Danville, and far more ignorant as well. Happy fireworks, and stay tuned. ▼



Lavender Tube



Openly Gator, Queer Duck, Oscar Wildcat, and Bi-Polar Bear share drinks.

Queer animation

◀ Arts cover

dish the Oscars and joke about porn; *The House of Morecock* boasts one sexy cartoon twink who marks new territory with his tumescent, mystery-seeking dong.

The main reason there have historically been so few out characters is the obvious one, according to *Queer Duck* creator Mike Reiss. "Animation is generally aimed at kids," he says, "and you just don't want to be treading that kind of controversial ground with kids." For that reason, most of the queer characters in the 20th century were coded. "I've always found a kind of pansexuality in cartoon characters," Reiss observes. He cites everyone's favorite example: "Bugs Bunny is very open about kissing other men, and getting into drag at the drop of a hat."

Midnight cowboy

Clearly, the denizens of Toon Town have come a long way, baby, since the pre-Stonewall fag-bashing days. Surely one of the earliest (if not the first) out gay character was the titular protagonist in *Thank You, Masked Man*. In this quirky animated short from 1967, developed by comedian Lenny Bruce, the masked cowboy hero openly declares his taboo desire for Tonto, with whom he hopes to "perform an unnatural act."

The villagers react poorly, to say the least. "Ooh, the Masked Man's a fag!" they holler. "You dirty fag, you dang queer, you!" And the vitriol keeps gushing, at lengths both disturbing and oddly quaint. It's hard to imagine this was ever funny, but the laughtrack suggests that you should be cracking up.

After a verbal bashing like that,

gay characters seemed to know their place, remaining hidden in their closets for the next two decades. But then came *The Simpsons*, the most successful animated TV show of all time. For 13 years now, creator Matt Groening and his outstanding team have wielded a gay sensibility as they poke fun at everything, from Christianity and Republicans to Hinduism and environmentalists. That list includes closeted queers, too: Pity poor Waylon Smithers, the professional toady/Girl Friday to the most deliciously evil corporate magnate in all of TV Land, Montgomery Burns. Smithers' unrequited crush for his boss is legendary, but despite mounting evidence (like the screensaver of a naked Mr. Burns on his computer), Smithers believes his love dare not speak its name. *The Simpsons* even featured a hilarious Springfield Pride Parade this past season — but Smithers, along with Marge's sister Patty, rode concealed on the "Stayin' in the Closet" float.

Newer than *The Simpsons* and (thanks to its cable home) more abrasive, *South Park* has also cultivated a button-pushing agenda. Their classic queer episode featured Big Gay Al, who runs an animal sanctuary for gay pets. In the most politically incorrect stroke of genius, the 1999 feature-length *South Park* film, *Bigger, Longer and Uncut*, partnered Satan and Saddam Hussein as lovers. As a full-blown movie musical, with a score by Marc Shaiman that recalls Rodgers and Hammerstein and Leonard Bernstein, the flick also appeals to showtunes queens everywhere.

Net play

Things have really started to develop for Toon Town's alterna-

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Sunday at the Center with Sondheim

Kennedy Center revisits his masterworks

by Jim Van Buskirk

The lobby of the Kennedy Center at intermission looks like a gay bar," quipped my friend Lawrence Helman. He should know: his license plate reads SNHMQN.

We were exiting the Eisenhower Theater, site of the Sondheim Celebration taking place in the nation's capital. The ambitious \$10 million festival, considered the first to honor a living composer on such a scale, is featuring fully-staged new productions of six Sondheim shows in repertory. Staged by cutting-edge directors and featuring Broadway veterans as well as up-and-coming performers, the series allows a rare opportunity to appreciate anew the amazing breadth of Sondheim's work.

We wondered why gay men are attracted to Sondheim. His homosexuality, known by many, was made public in Meryl Secrest's 1998 biography, and his work, derided by some, has permanently changed the face of the modern musical stage. His protagonists may be relentlessly heterosexual, but he offers a cynical, outsider perspective, one that I advisedly call queer.

Sweeney Todd, recently seen here in a concert version starring George Hearn and Patti Lupone, is better appreciated fully-staged. Award-winning Brian Stokes Mitchell's amazing baritone is perfectly suited to the demon barber of Fleet Street, the best yet in the role. Star of stage, screen, and television, Christine Baranski's comic flair made her an inspired Mrs. Lovett, evoking the love and longing of the imbalanced pie-maker. Hugh Panaro was a handsome Anthony Hope, infatuated with the lovely Celia Keenan-Bolger as Joanna. The musical's brilliant evocation of London's class system was accomplished with platforms continually rearranging to dramatically fill the stage. A sound glitch at the top of the first act was only momentarily distracting.

Company, the 1970 show about relationships and fear of commitment, is difficult to stage without seeming dated. While Sondheim has stated vociferously that the show's creators never intended the character of Bobby to be gay, the protagonist's inability to make an emotional commitment still appears to be somewhat autobio-



John Barrowman is the ambiguously gay Bobby in Sondheim's *Company*.

graphical. The inspired set, a vertiginous view of skyscraper facades in forced perspective, suggested the intensity of life in New York, but the constantly changing projections at the rear of the stage tended to distract from the excellent ensemble cast.

Lynn Redgrave as the older, acerbic Joanne, a role still owned by Elaine Stritch, finally nailed the character in the second half of "Ladies Who Lunch." John Barrowman, handsome as Tom Cruise, sang well, but didn't quite capture Bobby's angst. Rumors circulated that due to problems with director Sean Mathias, Mathias had been dismissed shortly before opening, and Sondheim himself may have stepped in to finish readying the production. The result was fascinating if flawed.

Park place

Sunday in the Park with George, too, seems somewhat autobiographical in its depiction of the obsessive, unappreciated artist who forsakes a relationship for his art. The reconceiving of George Seurat's Pointillist paintings in the first act, and the use of digital monitors in "Putting it Together" rendered this production fresh and moving. Raul Esparza had some of Mandy Patinkin's original

high energy in his depiction of the two Georges. Melissa Errico, also reminiscent of Bernadette Peters, was lovely, acting and singing beautifully. Her heartfelt paean to self-discovery, "Move On," had much of the audience in tears.

Still to come are *Passion* (through August 23) starring Michael Cerveris as Giorgio, the handsome soldier in love with the beautiful Clara (Rebecca Luker) but fascinated by the ailing, homely Fosca (Judy Kuhn). *A Little Night Music* (August 2-25) looks at lost loves, tender memories, and scandalous affairs during a weekend in the country, with a cast including Blair Brown, Randy Graff, Barbara Bryne, Douglas Sills and John Dossett. *Merrily We Roll Along* (through August 24) follows three now-successful childhood friends (Raul Esparza, Miriam Shor, and Michael Hayden) as they look back on the price they've paid to realize their dreams.

Other Sondheim events at the Kennedy Center: On April 28, former *New York Times* theater critic Frank Rich interviewed the artist himself. In the Terrace Theater, August 14-18, Barbara Cook reprises her show *Mostly Sondheim*, in which she sings not only his compositions but also "ones he wishes he written." The legendary soprano put together this show for the composer's 70th birthday, brought it to San Francisco two years ago, and has since recorded it. *Mandy Patinkin in Concert: Celebrating Sondheim* featured Broadway's original star of *Sunday in the Park with George*, with Paul Ford on piano. From September 3-8, The New National Theatre Tokyo performs *Pacific Overtures* in Japanese, with English surtitles.

The *tchotchkes* in the Kennedy Center gift shop were disappointingly tacky, but I did splurge for the handsome if overpriced program, with writings by Clive Barnes, Martin Gottfried, Frank Rich, Meryl Secrest and others. And you can be sure that Lawrence and I will be returning in August for more Sondheim. ▼



Brian Stokes Mitchell and Christine Baranski in DC fest's *Sweeney Todd*.

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Queer Literature 101

Revised 'Gay & Lesbian Literary Heritage'

by Brandon Judell

Claude J. Summers is our kind of academic. Having taken an early retirement from being a William E. Stirton Professor of English at the University of Michigan, he's just settled down in New Orleans with his lover of 40 years, Ted.

"I really love New Orleans," Prof. Summers noted over the phone the other day. He especially loves Mardi Gras. "You might not recognize me during the festivities, because everyone's in costume." So how revealing a costume does Claude don? "Well, if you did recognize me, I wouldn't be embarrassed." But what if we threw beads at you to get you to lift up your shirt or blouse? "I'd be delighted."

Well, that's enough of the hinks of the well-read. The main reason for B.A.R.'s call is to discuss the newly revised edition of the modern reference classic, *The Gay & Lesbian Literary Heritage: A Reader's Companion to the Writers and Their Works from Antiquity to the Present* (Routledge). The first edition arrived in 1995, and suddenly the closet doors were thrown wide open on everyone from Samuel Butler to John Henry Mackay to Edith Sitwell. There were over 350 essays by experts on French Literature Before the 19th Century; Poetry: Gay Male; Roman Literature; Latina Literature; and Sports Literature: Lesbian. Over 150 scholars contributed to the rather thorough tome.

But since publishing continues to spout new works daily, and since gay

and lesbian scholarship continues to unearth surprising facts about our past, a revised *Literary Heritage* was called for, and here it is. Several old entries have been updated, and there are over 30 new essays, including ones highlighting Jewelle Gomez, Christopher Bram, Jan Morris, Norwegian Literature, Rupert Brooke, Comedy of Manners, and 1909 Nobel Prize winner Selma Lagerlöf.

So why the need for such a book in the first place? I asked, already guessing the answer.

"We're always interested in the way in which people's experience of homosexuality affects their writing," Summers replied. "They're so often really intimately linked. Obviously, there are some writers for whom the issue of homosexuality is a burning issue, and it permeates everything they write very directly. You think of Whitman, Wilde, Dickinson, and so forth.

"In other ways," he continued in a breezy lecture style, "it's much more oblique. In some ways, it may be difficult to see it at all. It's those latter folks who mostly define themselves as 'writers who are homosexual,' as opposed to being 'homosexual writers.' I suppose no one really wants to be pigeon-holed, as though you can sum them up and say, 'Well, this is a homosexual writer,' as though there's nothing else to say about them. I do have some sympathy for that point of view.

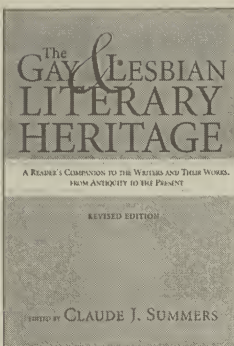
"But most of us realize," the good professor avowed, "that in our time (and this is not necessarily true for all times) and in our culture, being homosexual is such a controversial and political state that it cannot help but affect anything as cerebral as writing. Consequently, I am committed to the idea that literature is such a valuable resource for all of us because it not only affects individual lives, it affects the lives of whole communities. So the gay and lesbian

literary heritage is really an important thing which manifests itself in so many different ways."

Taking a breath, he added, "We have to be alert to the fact we can't assume that all gay and lesbian writers can be homogenized. On the other hand, I'm always nervous when people try to minimize homosexuality, because I think that becomes part of an attempt to keep gays and lesbians invisible, even today."

Of course, when you ask a throng of intellectuals to write about the queer aspects of literature through the ages, there's always the chance they'll find a butch or a queen under a rock where there isn't any.

"Well, that can always be a problem," Summers acknowledges, "but you know, considering the amount of intellectual effort that has been used to deny gayness, if we err in the other direction, it seems to me just a minor little correction. You know, when I went to graduate school, people were absolutely insisting there was nothing queer about Shakespeare. The sonnets. They argued you couldn't read them for what they actually say. Or they insisted Whitman could never be gay. Naturally, our main interest is in accuracy, and in intelligent and thoughtful evaluation of the evidence. I certainly don't want to encourage people to find things



that aren't really there."

Another problem Summers as editor faces is that the evaluation of certain authors changes over the years. The Edward Albee essay undervalues the man, while the one on David Leavitt ends, "He is one of the brightest stars of the gay literary world today."

Summers laughs heartily. "I'll have to track down the author of that. That's one of the things that happens when you're writing about figures who are alive and actually writing. Most of my career I wrote about dead people, so I didn't have to worry too much about their future output. But I don't know of any book this big where you're going to find anyone who agrees with everything. I certainly don't, and I wouldn't expect anyone else to."

As for Summers' future, besides lying happily beside his honey who indexed this superb reference tool, he hopes to have a companion to the *Literary Heritage* up on the Internet by the end of the year. ▼

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Bend over, boyfriend

by Jim Piechota

The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Men, by Bill Brent; Cleis Press, \$14.95

Recipient males are weak and secretly want to be women. "Only perverts and sluts do it." "Nothing was meant to go in there." These are just a few of the 12 myths that prolific San Francisco author and publisher Bill Brent debunks in the opening chapter of his expansive guide to anal sex, just out from Cleis Press.

It's a big, big sexual world out there, and references to anal activity can evoke opinions from the euphoric to the repulsive. Brent knows this, and he dispels over 250 pages of important information on this subject hoping to ease even the tightest of sphincters by dismissing the assertion that buttplay "is something that must be endured rather than enjoyed."

A thorough medical exploration at the beginning of the volume covers everything from the inner workings of the "pelvic floor" and the super-absorbent quality of anal tissue (why HIV is so easily transmitted via anus) to toys, fingers, fisting, diet recommendations, "Kamikaze cleaning," and douching techniques ("Splooshi!")

Brent doesn't skimp on more serious matters of communication with your partner when dealing with issues of safety, consent, emotional boundaries, and the use of safewords. There are risks and dangers (some obvious, some not) involved in various aspects of anal play, and these concerns are given appropriate attention, and are meticulously explained.

If you're a beginner to all things anal, Brent's book will be a goldmine of knowledge serving to demystify this sexual fancy that is often seen as dirty, painful, and forbidden. There are illustrations of sexual positions (utilizing both genders), drawings of a sampling of toys available for purchase, and even personal exercises at the end of every chapter to try at home. A thorough final section provides pages of resources for further research and exploration on your own.

In the anatomy section, Brent extends his expertise to the female body, but only briefly, recommending that lesbians discover Black Books' recently published companion volume, *The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Women*, written by the dynamic Tristan Taormino.

Brent has produced an immensely comprehensive, indispensable guide to anal sex that will serve to instruct and inform novices and experts alike. This is mandatory reading for anyone at all interested in anal sex, and it will certainly take a lot of the guesswork and trepidation out of situations when your sexual partner unexpectedly brandishes "a big, greasy dildo and rides you until your vision blurs." Sound good? Then go get this book. ▼



BOOKS

The master's voice

by Jim Nawrocki

The Voice of the Poet: Adrienne Rich; Random House/The Voice of the Poet series (64-minute CD and 64-page book), \$19.95

Several years ago, a group of researchers made national news headlines when they announced the discovery of a previously unknown wax-cylinder recording of Walt Whitman reading one of his poems, "America." It is the only known recording of the great American poet's voice. In its report on the discovery, National Public Radio aired the brief, scratchy recording. One of the researchers remarked that several people had been moved to tears when he first played it for them. The emotional power of the spoken poem, especially when it comes from the mouth of the poet, is undeniable. Poetry has always been written for the ear more than the eye, and it is always a privilege to hear the poet read his or her compositions in person.

Recordings are, of course, the next best thing, and Random House's *The Voice of the Poet* series is a welcome effort to make available the recordings of some of America's best poets. Sadly, Whitman didn't leave behind more recordings of his work, so there are no cylinders of "Song of Myself" and other Whitman favorites (at least, none that we know of). But *The Voice of the Poet* showcases an excellent group of poets, and Adrienne Rich is among them.

Each package in the series comes with a compact disc containing about an hour's worth of recordings, along with a small companion book containing the text of the poems on the disc and a brief commentary. Poet J.D. McClatchy penned the commentary for Rich, and for those unfamiliar with her work, he presents a brief but helpful introduction. One of the more intriguing elements of Rich's biography is her early rise to poetic stardom. Her first book was published in 1951, while she was still an undergraduate, as part of the Yale Younger Poets series, and it was selected and introduced by none other than W.H. Auden, one of Rich's early poetic inspirations. McClatchy traces the development of Rich's career and sets



Lesbian poet Adrienne Rich has lived her life as a writer of conscience.

her within the context of her times (the turbulence of the 1960s marked her profoundly). In so doing, McClatchy uses ample quotations from Rich's writings and interviews.

Early warnings

Even in their text form, as read poems, Rich's work is powerful. One can't help but be impressed by the technical sophistication of early poems like "Storm Warnings." The progress that leads to Rich's later work, such as the now nearly iconic poem, "Diving Into the Wreck," is equally awe-inspiring. But the experience of hearing Rich read her work (and this is true of just about any poet) adds an intimacy and depth that is invaluable. It's particularly moving to listen to the very young Rich read "Storm Warnings," a poem from her first collection, and then skip ahead to one of her recent poems, "Fox," which was written in 1998. They are the same poet, but they are not the same poet. The "experience" of the Rich reading "Fox" contrasts nicely with the "innocence" of the student Rich.

One of the admirable qualities of Rich's career is that her work, at least after her first two collections (*A Change of World* and *The Dia-*

mond Cutters), has always been informed by the events of the world around her. One could say her poems are "political," but the term does not do justice to the vitality of Rich's connection to her time. Much has been said about Rich's genesis as a feminist poet and of her notable, beautiful lesbian love poems. But Rich's poetry is more than an addressing of issues; it is about living with, and through, them. These qualities are well represented in *The Voice of the Poet* collection.

Like Whitman, who helped tend to wounded soldiers during the Civil War, Rich has lived a life as a writer of conscience. In addition to her poetry, she has written prose and social commentary. She has taught underprivileged children. In 1997, she turned down the National Medal for the Arts, and in so doing told President Clinton that accepting it would be "hypocritical" in the face of "the radical disparities of wealth and power in America." It seems more than fitting, then, that Rich's life-work should be given such an attractive and important showcase. *The Voice of the Poet* series is a courageous, valuable publishing initiative, and the inclusion of Rich's work in it is a welcome move. ▼

Out There

◀ page 26

Foreign intrigue

Notches on his bedpost: **Our Man Abroad** made that rare hat trick in London recently, scoring three celebrity sightings in the course of making one helluva scene! First, in Spitalfields, East London, near **Nicholas Hawksmoor's** stately Christ Church, OMA ran right into artist couple **Gilbert & George** on the street. They'd just had a big profile in the *London Telegraph*, the Monarchist press — not the first place you'd look for queer artists. Though **the Queen** has been commissioning British artists like **Lucien Freud** to do her portrait (she looks mean in it) and showing off the royal collection at Buckingham Palace, the great, gay & gray **Gilbert & George** had been royally snubbed for her Jubilee. This is mightily ironic regarding G&G, for, as they told the *Telegraph*, "We're probably the only artists in London who are



Gilbert & George: royally snubbed.

Monarchists!" Plus, we scarcely need to add, they're fabulous queens themselves.

Then OMA had a bird's-eye view of American import **Madonna** in the West End. It seems that photos of Madge were used as a contemporary counterpart to the *femme fatale* at the heart of **Berg's Lulu** at English National Opera. In the program, **Lulu** herself must make way for a full page of photos of the Material Girl.

Imagine OMA having a ciggie on the ENO fire escape during intermission, looking disinterestedly over the heads of the crowd in front of the Sanderson, the designy **Ian Schrager** hotel across the alley. The street, aswarm with paparazzi and fans, was closed off to traffic for the opening-night party for Madonna vehicle *Up for Grabs*, playing down the block. Suddenly, OMA spies a short, dumpy blonde woman striding down the street, her hair pulled back into a ponytail, wearing sunglasses, with terrible posture and six bodyguards. It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Madge!

The third of OMA's close encounters (and the kicker) was his running into none other than "sassy lass" **Tracey Emin**, one of those hot YBAs (Young Brit Artists) who *really* sleeps around, and then makes art about it. Our Tracey even winked lecherously at OMA, a scenario which OT would rather not dwell on. Instead, think about this: If you don't already know that a job is a boy spelled backwards, that automatically makes you one. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT



DJs Neil Lewis, Jamie J., David Harness, and Jeff Johnson bring down the house at Club Townsend. See Saturday.

travesty about naked Las Vegas dancers, starring Elizabeth Berkley in an over-the-top performance clawing her way to the top, high-stepping on Gina Gershon and everyone else. Free lapdances with every large corn. Costumes, contests, craziness. \$8. Midnight. 3010 Geary Blvd. Info: 352-0810; www.peacheschrist.com

Club Townsend

"The End of the Universe." Celebrate the end of an era as "Universe" closes its doors forever. Join celebrated DJs past and present for a memorable all-star DJ jam session. The lineup includes Jamie J., Phil B., David Harness, Matthew Baker, Jeff Johnson, Neil Lewis, Pete Avila, Blackstone and Michael Mangiaforte. They'll spin simultaneously from nine separate decks in the club. Doors open 9:30pm and don't close until the last person leaves the building. It's the end of one of SF's most successful clubs. Come scrawl your goodbyes on freshly painted "memory walls," soon to be bulldozed into history. Outside the club, Townsend St. between 2nd & 3rd streets will be closed to traffic so club-goers under 21 can party as festivities indoors are broadcast outdoors from 9:30pm till noon next day. \$25 entry. 177 Townsend St. Tix: 1-888-TIX-ONLY; tickets.com. Info: clubtownsend.com

Davies Symphony Hall

The music of Beethoven kicks off the SF Arts Commission/SF Symphony "Summer in the City" series. Alasdair Neale conducts the Orchestra's four-week summer series featuring the best of Broadway, pop, and classical favorites. The program features one of Europe's top young pianists, Markus Groh, performing Beethoven's elegant Emperor Concerto. The program begins with the Overture to Fidelio and rounds out with the composer's triumphant Symphony No. 7. \$15-\$56; 17 & under \$7.50-\$28; 8pm. Tix/info: 864-6000; sfsymphony.org.

Fillmore Street Jazz Fest

Performances by jazz vocalists Pilar, Faye Carol, and Nicholas Beard and the sounds of Jazz Mine and the SF Medicine Ball Band; Latin rhythms by Pete Escovedo, the Tamarind Quintet, Snake Trio and Tomas Michaud; big-band sounds by Contemporary Jazz Orchestra; jazz-funk groove by Motherbug. Plus the Bartron/Tyler Group. Stages at California, Sutter, and Ellis sts. Free. 10am-6pm. Also on July 7.

Sun 7

550 Barneveld

"Barn-Raising on Barneveld, the Sundance Saloon Grand Opening party at the club's new location for country-western dancing every Sunday evening. Featuring a brand-spanking-new state-of-the-art dance floor installed by an army of volunteers from The Sundance Association for Country-Western Dancing and ideal for two-steppers and line dancers (not to mention all the other groups who use the club). The old floor was linoleum on concrete. Ouch! The new floor consists of a layer of foam covered by two layers of plywood, with a vinyl surface specially manufactured for dancing. This will allow dancers to go for hours without wearing out their legs. Expect a friendly crowd of hot cowboys and cowgirls. \$5. 6-11pm. 550 Barneveld Ave. (near Bayshore & Industrial). Info: 820-1403; sundancesaloon.org

Daddy's

Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt and Mark Paladini present "The Match Game... Our Own Version." A benefit for the 2002 Leather Community Campout/Run Weekend. In the style of the old TV "Match Game," participants will be asked some rather revealing questions. Free admission; optional \$7 beverage benefit. 4-8pm. 440 Castro St. (near Market).

Mon 8

LGBT Community Center

"LGBT Meditation," silent meditation in the Buddhist tradition, led by Hilda Gutiérrez Baldoquin and Larry Yang. Participants will explore mindfulness in daily life and cultivating an open awareness. Bring cushion if desired. Every monday. Free (donations welcome). 5:30-6:30pm. 1748 Market St., room Q33 (third floor). Info: 206-6313; email MahaSangha@aol.com

Calendare by Mark Mardon

The winds of peace

How do you measure Gay Pride? Its power, poetry, song, and spirituality? How it affects not only those of us who dwell in this grand Gay capital, but the masses beyond these isolated peninsula shores, to the far reaches of the globe? How is our collective spirit, so intensely concentrated during Pride Weekend, affecting the larger universe?

A sage whispers in my ear: We're changing the planet, for good, and none too soon. Our Pride, with all its multitudinous forms densely concentrated into a mass of hopes and dreams, is a force capable of shaping human destiny, something we're only now beginning to comprehend, much less guide wisely. All of us — questioning, transgender, gay and lesbian — are deeply concerned about Destiny, since it seems not so far off anymore. We have to wonder where we're going not just as participants in a movement, or residents of a city, or citizens of a nation, but as members of a species. Fate has been looking iffy lately, and Prozac more attractive than ever, so why don't we just shrug and go belly up to the bar? Do you ever wonder why so many queers dance on ecstasy? It's not to reach accord with the Republicans by suddenly making them feel all lovey dovey. It's more like trying to find a safe place in the wilderness where ordinary cares can be shed, allowing for revelations to seep in. The problem is, in that ecstatic rush of intoxicating compassion and brotherly/sisterly love, a lot of guys lose contact with something basic. All the dancing and hugging in the world won't win us peace here and now if it doesn't have a direction, and a solid foundation. For flighty love to work earthly miracles, it needs community support and guidance, which means everyone in the community looks out for and respects everyone else, not just those with similar hair cuts and cars.

The way of savoring the heights of gay love, or any love, is the way of savoring a fine wine — knowing it intimately, breathing it in with complete clarity, pausing to reflect on its aroma, remembering where it comes from — the kegs, the vines, the earth. What makes a peaceful bouquet? A cornucopia of Pride mixed with sweat, tears, and soil.

Imagine. Peace. Last year at this time I dared to imagine peace was at hand, but in the yin/yang way of the world, my illusion was soon to be shattered. Global turmoil has reached proportions my boomer generation always feared, though never really expected to have to witness and bear. But why sweat the End of the World? My parents went through hell and back with the Great Depression and World War II, and somehow kept dignity intact. Can't I do as well?

As a boy, I imagined peace my whole life. I don't know why. My family fought. It was a blue-collar household in the old Southwest. My dad was a liquor salesman, and my mom the prettiest nurse in territory. Dad was always jealous. Imagine. Not peace.

Love, respect, dignity — these are qualities Arthur Anderson couldn't balance in a ledger book even if they tried honestly. Why then am I always wanting to save the whole cruel world, and not just my own sorry ass?

Because I'm gay! There's just something about it, when your focus is not on conceiving new life, but on nurturing the life that already exists, you discover inwardly what's needed to help the species survive outwardly. Maybe it's in the genetics of being gay. I can't allege it with any scientific certainty, but I feel it. It's a poet thing. To contemplate peace is poetry, and no one is in a better position to do the task than queers, who are forever thinking outside and all around boxes. Maybe we were born to be peacemakers. ▼

Fri 5

Space 550

"Crouching Tiger," the dance party proudly proclaiming itself "California's largest Asian Boy Party," where the Asian men gather every first Friday of the month. Featuring Kevin Aviance live. In the Tiger Room: trance/house w/DJ Mr. Jon P. In the Dragon Room: Hip Hop / Top 40 w/DJ Chago. Go-go boys galore. Drink specials. Giveaways. \$12. (\$10 before 11pm w/ flyer). 10pm-3am. 550 Barneveld (btwn Oakdale & Industrial, Bayshore Blvd. corridor). Tiger info: 487-8749; www.crouchingtigersf.com

Eureka Theater

"Scott Capurro: Erect in San Francisco." A solo stand-up comedy performance. Capurro has performed worldwide, including at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in Australia. His novel *Fowl Play* has been published in England. He's known in the Bay Area for his regular appearances on the Morning Show with Sarah on Radio Alice (97.3 FM). \$17. 8pm. Also July 6. 215 Jackson St. (near Battery). Tix/info: 345-7575; www.scottcapurro.com/scbio.html

Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening night: The Cutting Ball Theater presents the West Coast premiere of Roberto Zucco: *A Portrait of a Serial Killer*, by Bernard-Marie Koltès, celebrated in France and Germany as one of the great playwrights of the last century. He chronicles the spiritual life of a modern serial killer, and the breakdown of social order that creates him, as a way of exploring the dilemmas of Hamlet in a world where knowing another person is an impossibility. Directed by Rob Melrose from a translation by Royston Coppenher. The Cutting Ball Theater's mission is "to produce plays that reveal a poetic truth as opposed to a realistic or naturalistic one." \$12-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Thru July 28. Tix/info: 861-5079.

Theatre Artaud

Keith Hennessy's "Circo Zero" in its final weekend, showcasing an emerging community of Bay Area circus and music artists: Amanda Starr, Benn Mendoza, Susan Voytkick, Tyler Downing, Jade-blue Eclipse, Gabriel Todd, Loren Olds, Neal Stewart, and Elaine Buckholtz. They combine traditional circus arts (aerial fabric, cloud swing, acrobatics, contortion, aerial hoop, juggling) and contemporary performance within a musical landscape of American roots/folk songs supported by contemporary rhythms (hip hop, breakbeat, downtempo). \$20. 8:30pm. Thru Sun. 50 Florida St. (at 17th St.). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.848.com/circozero

Sat 6

El Rio

PornStud and GlitterFist Presents a Benefit for SIR Video: "DEVILED EGGS," A Deep Fried and Home Brewed Nighttime Picnic of Queer Americana Lust and Booty Shaking Fun." Your favorite dyke pornographers Jackie Strano and Shar Rednour (aka PornStud and GlitterFist) are throwing a killer party to help get them into production again. Drag Kings and Delicious Dancing Girls Galore. Bands that make you shake your groove thang: Chi Chi Palace (All Grrl groovin' rock); Shelley Doty X-tet (Lilith Fair guitar goddess); The Woodyz (Hi-Camp hot '50's rock 'n' roll). Cupcakes, raffle prizes, fine ass ladies, and studs galore. \$7. 9pm. 3158 Mission St. Info: www.elriosf.com

Landmark's Bridge Theatre

"Midnight Mass," with your hostess Peaches Christ (and tragic sidekick Martiny), opens the season with *Showgirls*, misdirected by Paul Verhoeven. The mother of all contemporary camp classics, *Showgirls* is a celluloid



Scott Capurro and erections go hand in hand at Eureka Theater. See Friday.

SFPALM

"Richard Rodgers — A Rare Video Screening Series." Tonight: the 1957 TV production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* starring Julie Andrews, which has not been aired on TV since its original broadcast. Held in conjunction with the exhibition "With a Song in His Heart: A Celebration of Richard Rodgers's, a retrospective of the composer's life and work. \$8 (\$20 series). 8pm. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), 4th floor. Tix/info: 255-4800; www.sfpalm.org

Theatre of Yugen/Noh Space

StrangeFruit Theatre Ensemble presents "Collectibles and Curiosities," two evenings of patchwork theatrics. Characters facing their own mortality sing songs and tell stories about the end of spring, loving, leaving and the erratic stars that burn the prairies of the sky. \$10-\$15 sliding. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Florida St.). Tix/info: 621-7978; www.theatreofyugen.org

Tue 9

Intersection for the Arts

"The Hybrid Project: What do You Want to Do?" With Jessica Tully, Tony Aldarondo, and more. Hosted by Sean San José, Joe Lopez and Shawn Taylor. Join a room full of people — DJs, dancers, actors, writers, musicians — in this continuing series, starting with fundamental questions, exchanging perspectives, language, rhythm, redefining the space between, all with the goal of creating new performance languages. \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Info: 626-2787.

Wed 10

Magic Theatre

Preview: "Ripped from the News," an evening of stories inspired by headlines of the day. Legendary improv troupe True Fiction Magazine collaborates with the Magic to present a new show each night, weaving several stories into a cohesive, two-act whole, with that day's news articles as the point of departure. Previews today and Thu., July 11 (pay-what-you-can). Opens Fri., July 12 (\$22-\$32 Tue.-Thu.; \$27-\$37 Fri.-Sun.). 8pm. Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center (Marina Blvd. at Buchanan). Tix/info: 441-8822; www.magictheatre.org

Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Branch Library

M.B. Hanif and the Sound Voyagers play classic and Latin jazz, funk. Free. 7pm. Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library of the



Peaches Christ, right, and Martiny share flicks and tricks at "Midnight Mass," at Landmark's Bridge Theatre. See Saturday.

SF Public Library. 3555 16th St. Info: 554-9445.

Thu 11

Books Inc., Castro

Reading & book signing with poet, performance artist Justin Chin, author of *Burden of Ashes*, a scandalously witty, truthful, semi-fictional prose work. The inimitable Chin has long been a major force in this town's queer cultural scene. Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. Info: 864-6777.

Zen Hospice Project @ the Presidio

The 2nd Annual "Art & Healing" Summer Benefit for Zen Hospice Project (ZHP), co-chaired by stage and screen actors Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker ("L.A. Law"), and featuring world-renowned brushstroke artist Kazuaki Tanahashi creating a *civ foot enso* — a traditional Japanese

art form symbolizing transformation. The event recognizes that art has the power to heal and make us whole. A special ceremony honors those who have died this past year. \$100. 6:30-9pm. Golden Gate Club, Presidio. Tix/info: 863-2910; www.zenhospice.org

Scott Nichols Gallery

Opening reception: "Ballroom," a series of B&W photographs by Berkeley-based photographer Andy Stewart. Shot over the last three years, these images of ballroom dancers use blurry motion and dizzying angles to capture the graceful flow and ritual of ballroom dancing. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St. Info: 788-4641.

Footloose @ Venue 9

World premiere: Three Wise Monkeys Theatre Company and Footloose @ Venue 9 present *The Ghost of Molly Malone*, by local playwright Aoife Stratford. Two interwoven narratives tell the story of legendary Irish figure Molly Malone, incarnated in the form of an eccentric bag lady in modern Chicago. The play is about women's long and continuing struggle to determine their own fate and values. Directed by Zanne Gerrard (Erins Productions). Featuring Arwen Anderson, Michaela Greeley, and Lily Oglesby. \$15 (\$12 seniors/students). 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com; www.threewisemonkeys.org

Cowell Theater

Summerfest/Dance presents "West Wave Dance Festival 2002," featuring 28 west coast choreographers in a three-week showcase or original works and revivals. Tonight and Fri.: Rapt Performance Group; Deborah Slater Dance Theater; KT Nelson; and Amy Siwert. \$20 (\$18 student/senior). 8pm. Fort Mason Center, Marina Blvd. & Buchanan. Tix/info: 354-7575; www.voiceofdance.com

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The men and gals of Sundance Saloon hoof it up on the brand-spankin' new dance floor they installed at 550 Barneveld. See Sunday.

On his way to the top

Chatting up Roddy Bottum of Imperial Teen

by Gregg Shapiro

What Is Not to Love?, the title of Imperial Teen's second album, sums up the listening experience of their third album *On* (Merge). Brimming with giddy and gay pop tunes with a rocking edge, the quartet is undoubtedly "on," as this disc contains 12 of their most accessible and memorable numbers, and could easily provide them with the commercial success they so justly deserve. Drummer and percussionist Lynn Perko deserves a lot of credit for this because it is her beat maintenance on songs such as "Ivanka," "Baby," and "Teacher's Pet" that drives many of these songs.

Roddy Bottum, the most recognizable member of the group due to his one-time membership in the band Faith No More, is one of two openly gay members and two men in Imperial Teen. He and his fellow Imperial Teen-agers (Will Schwartz, Jone Stebbins, and Perko) are traveling on a summer tour, but he took some time out to talk about the band, the new album, and his former hometown, San Francisco.

Gregg Shapiro: After living in SF for many years, you've relocated to LA. What do you miss the most about SF?

Roddy Bottum: The community. It's a really open-minded, tight-knit community that's really a rare American experience. There's nowhere like it that I've found anywhere in America. Being there as long as I was, I think I really started to take what San Francisco is for granted. There are certain things that just don't come up that come up in other cities, like racial slurs or homophobia or narrow-mindedness that you forget is really prevalent in America. In cities like LA, it's pretty prevalent.

What do you miss the least?

It is kind of a small city. Business-wise, it's got its limitations, as far as that goes. There's a lot more business opportunities in a place like LA. I really don't miss much about San Francisco. I like it a lot there. Besides the whole computer generation that popped



Imperial Teen is (left to right): Lynn Perko, Roddy Bottum, Jone Stebbins and Will Schwartz.

up in the last 10 years, SF does have a reputation of having the slacker mentality. I do have a lot of friends who really don't do a whole lot. It's not as productive as I feel it should be.

Imperial Teen is given writing credit, as a unit, for the songs on all three albums. How would you

describe Imperial Teen's songwriting process?

We work really well as a democracy. We get in together, and the songs that we create all come from the four of us being together. I think that's why on a lot of our songs, we swap instruments and do different things.

There is also a democracy to Imperial Teen when it comes to vocals. Everyone in the band sings.

When we started off writing songs like that, I think we wanted to keep it as cutting edge for ourselves as we could. We felt it was very important for everyone to try different things and try new things. That gave us an edge that

we didn't have otherwise. I think we still try and do that. We see things differently if we approach things in a different way.

The plinky piano on "Our Time" contributes to the song's celebratory mood, and the lyrics are also joyful. What was the inspiration?

That was one of the first songs we wrote for the new record, and I think it happened around the time where we were moving away from our old label, and in that way it was celebratory. Weird things were happening in SF at that time, like the dot-com thing was out of control. It was taking over SF. Will and I decided to move. A lot of things were changing in the life of the band, and it was celebratory in the way of new beginnings.

The jaunty "City Song" contains the lines, "Go to an ashram/Go back to school/Let's go undercover where we can be safe from society's rules." Do you feel being in a band keeps you out of reach of society's rules?

I don't know. For me, it's more of a mind-set. I've always been an artist, and I think my mind-set will always be that I'm safe from society's rules to a certain extent — rules that are followed by the norm. I don't know how much being an artist has to do with that. I feel like rules are meant to avoid and be broken, especially society's norm rules. ▼

Imperial Teen plays the Fillmore on July 11.

The Russians keep coming

Pianists Arcadi Volodos, Mitsuko Uchida out on disc

by Tim Pfaff

The Symphony's recent Russian Festival only underscores what regular concertgoers have known for more than a decade: with the fall of the Soviet Union, Russian musicians have all but taken over the music world. It has turned out to be a Warm War, sometimes even a hot one, but

everyone's coming out a winner.

The latest of the Russian piano phenoms (somehow, we've always had those, even in the bad old Cold War days), Arcadi Volodos, made such a blazing entrance a few years back that he's devoted most of his artistic efforts since to proving to the world that he's more than a digital wizard. I've never seen any reason to doubt his musicianship, which seems, like

the pianist himself, sufficiently well-rounded. But the harder he tries to prove it, the less he succeeds — or so it seems in his wane new Sony recording of Schubert's great G Major Sonata, the unfinished E-Major Sonata and Liszt's transcription of Schubert's "Der Muller und der Bach."

If scale were the issue (but unfortunately, it's not), Volodos' G Major Sonata would be one for the ages. The sonata's occasionally sprawling architecture has seldom emerged in better balance; tempo and rhythmic proportions seem

nearly ideal; dynamics are carefully graduated; and the tone throughout is both uniform and surpassingly beautiful. But no amount of lush playing can compensate for the sheer lack of point of view, say nothing of drama, in Volodos' reading, which turns this G Major into a glucose-tolerance test.

Volodos saturates his reading with sonorities that occasionally ache for a moment or two, but never test the listener's pain threshold. It's candied playing calculated not to leave a dry seat in

page 41 ►

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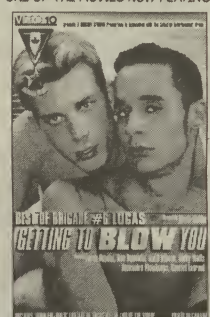
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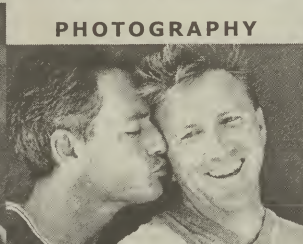
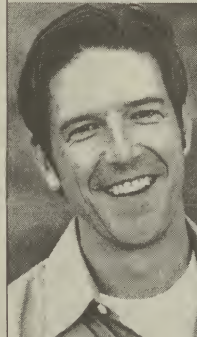
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FILM

Lan Yu

◀ Arts cover

mixture of sweetness and strength by Liu Ye, from the Chinese Youth Arts Theatre).

At first, Handong is happy merely to snatch Lan Yu from the clutches of a business rival. Paying the struggling student for sex, and showering him with gifts (new clothes for sexier undressing) seem to inoculate the older man from the virus of love. But one night, Lan Yu shows up at the flat unannounced, and catches Handong playing with another, hunkier boy. A fight ensues, and they part, only to meet again on June 4, 1989, the night of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Due to his political connections, Handong is warned of the pending bloodbath and the danger it presents to Lan Yu. Later, as Lan Yu lies sobbing in Handong's arms, his tears, shed for the death of fellow students and the fledgling democracy movement, also seal his love for Handong. That love will be tested by their culture's demand that even gay men marry, and by their respective roles in the juggernaut of the new economy. Lan Yu, a struggling architecture student, winds up on the front line in the dangerous construction industry, while Handong greases the wheels of commerce with loans and bribes, marking him as a potential scapegoat for Communist Party bosses.

Too much sex?

The Web novel from which *Lan Yu* was adapted, *Beijing Story*, was pioneering, first as a frank depiction of gay life in China's capital, and later as a model for distributing fiction whose themes might be frowned on by the government. At first the text of the widely popular story seemed too explicitly sexual to be suitable for a film. Zhang Yongning, *Lan Yu*'s Chinese-born, British-educated producer, says he was tipped off to the book's existence by a Shanghai friend. "I read the first eight pages and I thought, 'Oh, no, it's too much sex. I'm not going to read this kind of thing.' Next day, my friend asked me if I finished the book. He said, 'You've got to read it.' So I read it twice, all night. I was just in tears, I was so moved by it, for the next two days I couldn't work, I was walking up and down by the river. I was moved because the men's relationship reminds me of my own experience, quite similar to Handong's character. As I walked the river, my mind was flooded with images that I felt would be good for a film. I saw Stanley Kwan in Hong Kong, and as soon as he agreed to direct the film, it was halfway done."

Both men realized that *Lan Yu* would never get the blessing of the Chinese government, and would have to be shot "independently," meaning illegally, a small crew filming at anonymous locations, and avoiding material sensitive to persons still in power. Kwan felt that not only should *Lan Yu* be filmed in Beijing, but that the story needed to refer to both Tiananmen and the 1996 anti-corruption campaign by the Chinese government. Handong's character faces execution for "economic crimes," only to be rescued by Lan Yu. Much of the film's pleasure lies in the constantly shifting balance of power between the older and younger man.

"[Those events] represent some [tremendous] changes in Mainland China," Kwan said, "but somehow the writer [Hong

Kong-born Jimmy Ngai] and I agree that June 4th operates in the story not only as a background, but also represents the moment that Chen Handong commits to Lan Yu, about their love, about their relationship."

Men bonding

Kwan's own life and career underwent some tremendous changes when his work on two pathfinding documentaries about Chinese society prompted him to out himself in a very public fashion. In *Yang + Yin: Gender in Chinese Cinema*, Kwan set out to examine the rich and complex history of male bonding, gender-bending and crossdressing in different genres of Chinese film, especially the thousands of Kung Fu action movies, "always with two male leads. One can die for the other one, and suffer a lot for the other one. The male bonding, it was very fascinating for me when I was a kid."

At 13, Kwan had suffered the death of his father, and felt the repressive influence of life at a Christian middle school. "So father figure, male bonding, homoeroticism, and gender almost finished that project. All of a sudden one day I thought, 'The audience will ask why you choose this par-



Chen Handong (Hu Jun, right) loves Lan Yu in a repressive China.

ticular angle to reveal Chinese cinema'. So I talked to my mother, who said I should just let audiences know that I'm gay."

In 1997, Kwan marked the re-

turn of his beloved Hong Kong to Chinese rule with a film that viewed the subject through a special gay lens, *Personal Memoir of Hong Kong: Still Love You After All*

These. Kwan adds that coming out has been a mixed blessing careerwise. On the one hand, he's received plenty of support from colleagues in the Hong Kong film industry; on the other hand, following a recent Hong Kong film awards ceremony in which *Lan Yu* received 11 nominations but no awards, a local critic wrote, "See Stanley Kwan, before he came out, [his earlier films] *Red Rose*, *White Rose* and *Rouge* got many awards, but after that, see he got nothing."

Judging by the extraordinary intimacy achieved by the men in *Lan Yu*, Kwan has no plans to return to the closet. After the early scene of toweling up evidence of their sex, Handong teaches Lan Yu to kiss. Then there's a brilliant and eerie montage of youths biking through the darkness of June 4, representing the terrible velocity of violence and the stifling silence that would follow at Tiananmen. There's also a pitched verbal battle of the couple in their trophy love-palace, symbolic of the New Chinese Economic Order, and the unsettling waves of change it has unleashed. Kwan has confirmed his place leading an army of lovers at work in one of the world's most influential national cinemas. ▼

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The ball of balls

Before the parade passes by

by Mister Marcus

Deadlines being what they are, this column is being written the day before the SF Pride Parade — so how can one write about something that has not yet happened? Nevertheless, the stuff that went on before the parade is hereby reported, plus some other stuff that may be of interest to you.

The main feature of Pride Weekend, at least for the leather community, was the Phoenix Uniform Club's annual Leather/Uniform Ball on Friday, June 28 in the Green Room of the SF War Memorial Building, the very edifice where the United Nations Charter was signed decades ago.

The huge banner of the Phoenix club hanging from the balcony of the building flapped in the breeze as leather/latex/uniforms/drag and other outrageous attire stormed the entrance. Now, mind you, the tickets for this event had been on sale since mid-April at the club's 25th anniversary party, and at half the price of previous years: a bargain if ever there was one at only \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. The capacity of the room is only 500, so you know there were countless people turned away at the door because they didn't buy a ticket in advance. Next year, I suggest you get your ticket to this event as soon as they go on sale.

Inside, Gail Wilson fronted the fabulous City Swing Band, and they played all the favorites of their repertoire — except my favorite, "Tangerine." Oh, I told you I'd dish you for that, Mr. Bradley the Bandleader! Harrumph and double harrumph!

There was a big mix of police, mounties, dress military uniforms and great patriotic drag gowns. Even the emperor and empress outdid themselves, and for a minute, I thought we were in a foreign country. I never saw so many Russian military uniforms in one place! Spiffy, gleaming boots, starched shirts — oh, it was grand, all right, and a good number of out-of-towners were on hand, including Mr. Leather of Los Angeles, Daddy Don Anspauch, to name just one.

Now, what would you expect at a function of this stature in the way of food? Well, not every club is lucky enough to have a master



These three dudes decked out in authentic Russian uniforms were stand-outs at the Phoenix Leather/Military Ball last Friday June 29 in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building.

gourmet chef in their ranks, so First Officer Tommy Thomas was in his glory as the guests gobbled everything down in a hurry. Even the anniversary cake was devoured within minutes!



Leather

Songstress Gail Wilson, never failing to please, composed a great piece in tribute to the Phoenix 25th anniversary, and belted it out to an enraptured audience that gave her a great ovation. Ms. Wilson gets better and better each time out.

The night ended on a high note!

On Saturday morning, June 29, the annual Pride Brunch honoring the parade Grand Marshals took place at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, with a huge turnout and dignitaries galore. It was another success in fund raising — and bravo to Donna Sachet, Gary Virginia and friends.

Conduct unbecoming leather men

New York's leather community is upset about a contest producer who, ostensibly, produced the Northeast Leather Sir & Boy contests in the Big Apple as a benefit for the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom. The NCSF is in the forefront fighting for our rights with John Ashcroft, the Attorney General, and on other fronts. Every dime they get helps them do the work that needs to be done to insure the sexual freedom of all

people, not only gays and lesbians.

It has been almost a month since some \$1,352 has not been delivered to the NCSF, and the producer (formerly of Our Town, who left here under dubious circumstances) is nowhere to be found. The phone is disconnected, and e-mails bring no response. It is a shameful act to exploit the community under false pretenses. The person in question is a disgrace to the Leather Tribe.

On another front, a young-ish titled leather man from a big Southern city has betrayed his sponsors, his leather community and his own integrity. Veteran old guard leather men mentored, encouraged and otherwise tried to instill the best qualities of a genuine leather man in him, but to no avail.

This person borrowed hundreds of dollars from anyone who would give it up over a year ago, and is not paying them back. Again, no messages are returned, and he has plunged himself into the porno movie business and didn't even compete at IML this year, as he was supposed to.

It is very discouraging to put your faith in these young men who, for their own personal aggrandizement and gain, flaunt their uncaring, ungrateful, disloyalty for all to see. I am beginning to see the validity of Guy Baldwin's speech at the recent Leather Leadership Conference.

At first, I took a neutral stance on this subject, but in view of the

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, July 4

San Franciscans MC beer/soda brunch at the Eagle from 1500-1800, with a \$7 tab and 4th of July American Tradition vittles.

Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post (the gay one!) hosts a beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, from 2000-2300, for only \$6 with "Best BBQ this side of the Mississippi." Host: Jim Gateau, Mr. SF Bear.

Weekend, July 4-7

Living in Leather weekend at the Radisson on Mockingbird Lane in Dallas, with workshops, demos, and play parties all in the name of saving the leather community! Oh my!

In Phoenix, AZ, the Padlock Leather Sir/Boy competition will send someone to the Southwest Leather Sir/Boy contests later this year.

Sunday, July 7

Sundance Saloon debuts at their new space at 550

Barnveld Street.

"The Match Game" beer/soda bust happens at Daddy's from 1600-2000, to benefit the Leather/Levi Weekend run later this year.

Weekend, July 12-14

Mr. and Ms. Alameda Co. Leather 2002 with a meet & greet on Friday, and contest on Saturday at the Hill & Valley Club in Hayward.

Thunder in the Mountains in Denver, with all the assorted games, contests, demos, workshops and leather contests.

International Mr./Ms. Deaf Leather at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC. Plus the Mid-Atlantic Region Leather Sir/Boy contests in the same venue.

In Victoria, BC, Canada, the BC Leather Sir/Boy contests happen at the Curling Club with a vendor fair and other surprises.

Muscle with a twist

by John F. Karr

When the slogan on the box of *Straight Bodybuilders Do* says, "Less Sets. Less Reps. More Cock," it's really Truth in Packaging. In Blue Blake's fifth movie there are less sets, costumes and especially plot to get in the way; less repetitious references to fags getting it from a real man; and certainly, because of the extra time provided by these improvements, *More Cock*. There's also a lot more muscle.

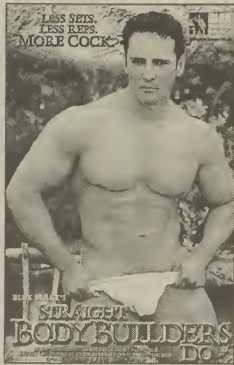
Straight Bodybuilders Do shows such stylistic improvement over Blake's previous movies that it's a little hard to believe he made this one unaided, although he's listed as the writer and director. He's almost totally ditched the distressingly homophobic plots and dialogue that positioned heterosexual guys as more masculine and desirable than gay ones. Perhaps because he's not forcing his performers into a straight-jacket of his own design, the sex is better, too.

This is evident from

the opening credits, which are accompa-

nied by a stylish multilayered montage of things to cum. But first — and this is novel — before the action, there's actually some foreplay. And it's surprisingly indecent. Box coverboy Rico Dulce and smutty colt Jeremy Jordan sit opposite each other in plushly padded leather chairs. Urged on by Dulce, Jordan is fingering his hole shamelessly, totally given to licentious self-pleasuring. This turns on Dulce, who soon orders Jordan to work a wide-bodied dildo up his ass, which Jordan does with his legs spread broadly across the arms of the chair. Here's maximum visibility coupled with maximum nastiness. When it comes to porn, that's the gold standard.

Jordan's a sharp and lean jaguar



of a kid, with a sweet boy's ass and a cock so snappy it hurts. A sensation on a dildo, he's just as nasty when sucking Dulce, burying his face in the Grand Canyon between Dulce's monstrous ass cheeks, or getting fucked. Dulce reverts to an old-line Blakeism when he growls, "I'm gonna make you my bitch," but it's so momentary, and the fuck he delivers is

so hungrily received, that I let it slip. Hardly a bitch, Jordan is a top man's Holy Grail.

Bulges above & below

Next up is Sergei Moscow, who's got cornsilk blonde hair, the chiseled features of the model in a men's fragrance ad, and a godlike body. It's impressively broad at the shoulder, with winglike lats tapering to a breathtakingly narrow waist. And at the end of his beautiful posing routine — his pecs are swollen wonders, and his buttocks worshipful sculpture — he reveals a *coup de grace* of a cock, its bulging head in perfect symmetry with all the other bulges. Here's one bodybuilder who belies the myth that they all have small cocks. Now, the thing about solos

is that if you aren't immediately smitten with the guy, you don't even wanna wait around to see if he's much of a performer. Sergei's not merely a smiter, he's a show-off, and lovers of fine cock everywhere will appreciate this memorable contribution to the solo repertoire.

Another impressive solo marks the debut of Brad Rock, a husky pugilist with that Irish look that's so striking: milk-white skin and shiny black hair, cropped close. Rock's a real bull, with yet another five-star boner, broader and straighter and so granitic the boy wrestles it with both hands. Preceding this, we saw husky all-American Jason Hawke topped by bad boy Rhett O'Hara. Hawke whispers to him, "You got a great dick," and we see a solid, chunky number, set off by the crescent of one of those strange abdominal tattoos that spell an undecipherable message in Gothic script. O'Hara returns later, to top muscle-boy Duke Miller, who commands, "Fuck that bodybuilder ass!" Now that's the kind of dirty talk I like.

It's about as amusing as the line Rico Dulce lays down before his encore in the movie's finale. "I'm 100% straight," he tells us, "but once in a while I twist and like to take a guy." That doesn't sound so 100% to me. Fortunately, he's paired with Jason Hawke, who's 100% gay, but every once in a while twists and does a straight guy. How swell for them both. It's hard for this movie to end as strongly as it began, but fans of muscle-guy make-outs will enjoy *Straight Bodybuilders Do* without it even mattering who's straight or not. Throughout, the softly diffused lighting has flattered the complexions and skin quality of the performers, as the videography and editing has flattered their performances. And to think I'd almost written Blue Blake off. ▼

www.blueblake.com; (800) 733-3393



Karnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

above two individuals who have betrayed their brothers and sisters, their sponsors, their mentors and their friends, I feel it is not unreasonable, henceforth, to question the credentials of those who would entertain becoming a part of our leather nation.

Meanwhile . . .

In case you've heard what sounded like a rumor, that Jim Cobb has divested himself of the American Brotherhood Weekend contests, rest assured it is not a rumor. Effective immediately, Frank Nowicki, Schelli Dittman and Max now own the ABW. The contests will go on as always in Washington, D.C. with only minor changes that don't affect the public. The weekend will be held as always in April and will proceed without a glitch.

Also, the Boy Movement seems to be taking on the momentum of a steamroller. Last week, announcements came forth about the formation of the Phoenix Boys of Leather, and two days later, another one about the Dallas Boys of Leather. If you think/feel the boy route is the one to take, and you live in those areas, contact: PhxBoysOfLeather@hotmail.com, or for the



Bianca Vigil, former Ms. Alameda County Leather, was flanked by two studly leather men at the Phoenix Leather/Uniform Ball last Friday in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building.

Texas group, click on www.DallasBoysOfLeather.com.

California leather family judges

Last week, Bob Brunson, executive producer of the California Leather Family contests (CA Leather Man, CA Leather Woman and CA Leather Boy) taking place here on Saturday, July 27 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, announced the judges for the competition.

They are: Kevin Casey (outgoing incumbent), Darrell Moyers (Mr. DC Eagle 2001), Robert Blacmon (Mr. Sisters Leather 2002), Kat Matthews (Ms. Alameda Co. Leather 2001), Herb Kaylor (Mr. DC Eagle 2002), David Kloss (IML 79) and Rich Trevino, current American Leather Man. Sounds like a good group to me!

Have a safe 4th of July, and wherever you are, keep reading: www.L LeatherPage.com. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Lands End 6/6, 6/7

Friday: You leaving, dark hair, blue t-shirt and jeans. Me arriving, blue jeans, light brown hair. I should have followed and talked. Interested? Call me. ☎ 71848

•Robert At Blow Buddies•

We met and had a heart and soul connection last June. Our cards got mixed up. Let's touch again. Tony. ☎ 71849

Sun 2/Jun 38 Geary 11P Westbd

You: Handsome guy in black. De-boarded Third Ave. Me: Scruffy Latin, reading a book in back. Wish I had followed you. Second chance? ☎ 71850

Sunday 6/2 Both Driving Turk St.

We were driving parallel up Turk St. You knodded twice in my direction. I was looking but couldn't respond. Had full car. Would love to hear from you. Liked you very much. ☎ 71851

Bell Market In Noe Valley On June 17

You, tall, handsome, dark hair, red check shirt ahead of me in check out line, early evening. Me, tall, short dark hair and glasses. You stared. Would like to meet you. ☎ 71882

Adrian, Responding To Ad #71836

Dark eyes olive skin, dark hair. Your six two (6'2"), and work at home and sound great! But, you forgot to leave your #. Please try again, Thank you. Daniel. ☎ 71883

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Asian Partner Wanted!!

By European man 44- 6'1-185lbs. Into art, music, hiking, classic movies, weight lifting and enjoying the good life. Don't like shallowness or playing games. Let's talk over dinner!! ☎ 71852

Nice Jewish Boy w/Big Shitck

Speak softly but carry a big stick! 43 look 35, 6'-1", 182#, br/ry, clean-shaven, Marketing Executive, own flat-cooked meals, naked massage, small hotels, art, swim, hike, hope for wonderful life. ☎ 71853

Fil-Men Bi-Curious

Asian bi-men love to meet bi-men Latino/ Asian/ WBM/ with same interest in sports, changing ideas and walking on the beach. Preferably discreet and honest. ☎ 71854

Affectionate Mature Men

WLM 46, 6', 165lbs ISO affectionate senior men who enjoy lots of deep kissing, holding & cuddling. Poss ltr. facial hair, non-buffed/ husky A+. Not into gay lifestyle or drugs but smoking ok. ☎ 71855

Latino Men!!

Me GWM, 34, 6', 170lbs, bid hair, blu eyes, romantic at heart who wants to be fucked. Looking for Latino men, any age, who likes movies, travel and trying anything at least once. No drugs. You HIV- me too. ☎ 71856

SF GWM BF Material Looking For

...You? Built, Furry, poz wants great sex with tall, inshape, Furry, mature, oral GWM while getting to know each other. Into sharing fun, dining, dancing, movies, culture, hiking, nude beaches, gym. ☎ 71857

Goodlooking Asian To Date

Attractive Asian 30, 5'8", slim, clean-cut, masculine, nice boy next door seeks similar attractive GWM 30-40 ht/wt, std-free, masculine, clean-cut for dating poss. Ltr. ☎ 71868

Adventurous Goodlooking Sexy

49y/o dark eyes olive skin, bottom, 6'1", 190lbs well defined and endowed seeks sexy, honest, intelligent, dark complexion preferred. Ages 35-50. ☎ 71886

Blond Seeks Latins

Goodlooking 37 6ft 195lb with a great body seeks Latins, for good times. All responses answered. ☎ 71871

"I Want You!!!"

GBM top 50 seeks GWM bim 50-60 yr old for dating, good sex and poss ltr. Me: many interests, articulate and good lover. You: enjoy wearing Panties (silk, nylons-not drag). Must be able to communicate feelings. Be under 6ft tall. No beard, enjoy recreational smoke and aroma and like to cuddle. ☎ 71869

Husky Hot Huggable GWM

44, 5'9", 185lbs, mustache, S&P/ blue. ISO monogamous ltr with GWM, GLM, GFM, 38-50; enjoys movies, romantic evenings, massage, & being together with sincere special guy. ☎ 71870

~Asian!~

Young looking, caring GAM, 53y.o., slim, is looking for an older GWM, for relationship. We enjoy quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 71884

Strong Sensitive Man

GWM, 56y, 6'2", 179#. ISO romantic at heart, physically attractive, professional, HIV- top or versatile, vanilla to kink, 30-50's, Asian or Jews A+ and desires ltr. ☎ 71885

Mex-Rican Lke 4 Asian/Japanese

I'm 5'8"/155, dark skin versatile or bottom nice round butt husky look medium muscular body: You- under 40, top or versatile, masculine slim, height/weight proportional N/D N/fats or fems. Call now. ☎ 71887

ISO Relationship

GWM, 55, 5'10", 215lbs, Italian, poz, ISO older BM to explore relationship, my hobbies: movies, dining out, music, politics, travel. Oakland. ☎ 71888

Seek Ltr Total Top, Mtg Weekly

Attractive healthy AM in excellent shape wants to play total bottom. You: healthy total top, East/ South/ West Bay, any age/race, N/D, no diseases. ☎ 71889

Athletic & Professional Black

Male, warm, cuddly, friendly, understanding. Available for long-term relationship. Prefer senior citizen type, over 60y.o. Let's talk- Have a lot to offer. ☎ 71890

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Get Sweaty, Get Naked!

E. Bay daddy, 52, ISO son, 25-35. Let daddy taste your sweaty pits, feet, ass, nuts. Uncut, hairy, ok. ☎ 71858

E. Bay Taken..

Discreet, masculine available some weekends & evenings. I'm attractive, 40, excellent suction. Be 25-45 uncut, Hispanic, Black, Asian + 's. Your place.. ☎ 71859

Bum, Dharma Or Otherwise!

Homeless, hairy chest, shaved head, tight behind, 12ee, Anglo-Saxon, light, looking for safe fun, togetherness, or likewise, cockmiking, bondage, either's good! Pealeasse? ☎ 71860

Spank Your Butt

Goodlooking toman, 37, 5'11", 170#, work out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71861

"Video Freak"

BM into rimming, fist fucking, vers toys party leather top or bottom need place to play. ☎ 71862

"I'm The Best In The West!"

It's time to get Real! Let's play and have some fun. I'm the expert Azn bottom dude for you. Love to do everything that we'll both feel happy n satisfied. ☎ 71873

Bottom 2h Tied Tortured N Fukt

SM, BD, TT, FF, WS rim CBT VA humiliation. Boy is 35, docile, maleable and eager to please. Sir is dom, clean, sadistic, sane. ☎ 71874

A Midsummer's Night Dream

Poz masculine hung satyr top seeks brown rugged punk for hours of sexual revelry. Pluses: uninhibited verbal serviceman fearless cocksucker, submissive, squirming, rim'n ride tough-man. ☎ 71872

Your Dick In My Mouth

Clean and healthy senior GWM with no teeth will suck it for bi or GWM. ☎ 71875

Be My First Queer Butthole

Me: Bi WM 40's HIV- never fucked ass. You: short, fit, clean, small waist, slim hips, HIV-, submissive sunseater. You get blindfolded, fucked at your SF place. Safe only. Viagra? ☎ 71876

ZZTop 4 Trim 4 Cuddle, JO, Sleep

GWM, 56, 5'7", 220, long white beard, hairy, glasses, balding, smoker, HIV- seeks trim guy, under 40, ages/races, for cuddles, JO, and possible sleeping partner. No anal action. ☎ 71877

LGM Lkg 4 Asian's Top's

Masculine looking and acting bottom, olive skin, bubble ass, 36yrs old, 5'8", 155. You Asian under 40, height/weight proportional husky slender build A+, no fats no fems no drugs. ☎ 71891

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ISO Masc Musc Nip-Pig Daddy

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Balls!! Huge Balls That Is!!

If you have them and love to have them looked over- your way? Mature gentleman can do this for you. ☎ 71878

English Former Headmaster...

Provides corporal punishment to wicked persons. Days ok. in S.F. ☎ 71879

Bottom In For Pride Week?

Older but hung Black top will pump a mature, masculine guy in his hotel room 6/30 and 7/01/02. Must leave full name. Be serious and experienced, hotel only. ☎ 71880

Teach A Submissive His Place

Otherwise straight WM, 43, 5'10", 195, can be Greek passive (condoms) for alpha male superiors who verbally degrade and piss on him. Heavyest ok. Small groups welcome. External seat considered. ☎ 71881

He's Lean And Mean And Wearing

Jeans. He turns around; I fall to the ground. I kiss his feet; I go into heat. I lie on my back; on my face comes his assscrack. ☎ 71892

S.F. Leather Guy

Seeks others into same- Chaps, jock straps, etc. Into erotic twisted leather action- Leave message. Details and how to reach you. I am White, 35, lean and horny. ☎ 71893

Masochistic Bottom

Submissive bottom boy, 34, 5'10", bl/bl, 160, needs strict and severe discipline, training, and control. Please take me to your woodshed, Sir. Have canes, paddles, straps and whips. ☎ 71894

Oral Service Wanted

WLM 47, 6', 165lbs, hairy, stache. I'm looking for a younger M to give me slow, sensual oral service. Effeminate looking & acting A+. ☎ 71895

OTHERS

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ISO workout partner for 2 or 3 mornings or afternoons per week in private gym (weights, bench, heavy bag). You also wrestle? Box? NHB? Great! 5'8", 142#, wanna bulk up! ☎ 71865

Senior Moments?

Senior bi WM seeks same for occasional lunch or beer to discuss the adventures we've had in life. Plus what we're doing, how to keep our batteries charged up. ☎ 71866

Website Tutor!

Generous WM needs someone to teach me how to use chatrooms, webcams, bulletin boards, personal sections, etc. Strictly business arrangement. ☎ 71867

Are You M To F Butch Dyke?

I'm a 20-ish WM who thinks he might be. Would like to discuss process with M to F Lesbian, or others. Excited by all the possibilities. ☎ 71896

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Queer animation

◀ page 30

tive-lifestyle crowd in the 21st century, and the Internet has played no small part. Both *Queer Duck* and *The House of Morecock* began as animated shorts to be viewed on your home computer; success there brought new life with new material in other formats. *Duck* now airs after *Queer as Folk* on Showtime, while *Morecock* can be purchased on DVD. Both boundary-breakers still maintain an interactive Web presence, at www.sho.com/queerduck, and www.thehouseofmorecock.com.

The brainchild of Reiss, a four-time Emmy winner for his work on *The Simpsons*, *Queer Duck* follows the antics of the eponymous waterfowl and his fey compatriots, such as butch boyfriend Openly Gator and Paul Lynde-soundalike Bi-Polar Bear. Collaborating with animator Xeth Feinberg, Reiss has created a comical series of 20 shorts; 10 more episodes seem likely, and Reiss has even plotted out a potential feature-length movie.

The *Queer Duck* hallmarks include a vintage visual style, a theme song that recalls *Magilla Gorilla*, and an irreverent attitude that would make Smithers blush. You ain't seen nothing till you've seen Episode # 18, "Bi-Polar Bear and the Glorious Hole," which pays homage to "Winnie-the-Pooh and the Honey Tree" in X-rated reverse.

Meanwhile, beyond even the expanded constraints of cable TV, artist Joe Phillips whipped up *The House of Morecock*, in which our lithe protagonist, Jonas Morecock,

starts each episode sleuthing for the paranormal Bigfoot — but finds (and fucks) a big Paul Bunyan instead. "All the other gay [cartoon] characters keep their pants on," Phillips laughs. "They're mainstream, so they can't go as crazy as Jonas."

Despite some less-than-smooth animation, *Morecock* won the 2001 Adult Video News award for Best Alternative Video; still, you wouldn't exactly call it porn. There's a sense of humor to it, and a willingness not to focus exclusively on sex. Hence the *Little Mermaid* send-up, complete with a musical number ("I couldn't resist," Phillips laughs), and the "documentary" about Jonas' pre-porn career, which winks at one of Phillips' obvious influences, *Scooby-Doo*.

"I wanted to do something fun," says Phillips, who's developing a new animated sex hound, Ace Rockhard. (He and Jonas should have a blast shupping their way through Toon Town.) "I grew up with the Flintstones and Bugs Bunny, so my humor has always been real slapsticky — sight gags and funny sounds, and things like that."

Judging by their feedback, fans appreciate the union of the animated art form with an unapologetic, adult GLBT sense of humor. "There's a no-rules, freewheeling attitude that underlies almost all cartoons," says Reiss. "Anything goes. You certainly see it on *The Simpsons*, and I use it on *Queer Duck*. When a cartoon is so cute, you can get away with so much more. Everything looks much less offensive when it's said and done by cute cartoon characters." ▼

Russians on CD

◀ page 36

the house. But this isn't fundamentally "pretty" music. Approached on its own terms, it's pretty hard music to take.

Breakdown place

You don't have to go as far as Mitsuko Uchida's nervous breakdown in G Major to see what else the sonata holds — but why not look there? Uchida's ongoing Schubert cycle for Philips has been one of the true musical revelations of the last decade, and her G Major is among its more harrowing glories. Her probing interpretation is coiled around enough tension to carry a piece twice as long, and everything is "in its place" in an infinitely more disturbing, but ultimately more meaningful way.

When Uchida articulates a score, there's always the sense, at least at the moment (which in music is all there is, remember), that there's no other way it could sound or be played. Every note and rest seem to imply, then supply, what follows with the inevitability of death itself, which in fact informs this tragic masterpiece. If you did the math, Uchida's G Major would probably be as metrically "balanced" as Volodos' — not because it ticks like a Swiss watch, but rather because of her mastery of the music's deeper rhythmic pulses, their surface fluctuations and the almost unbearably suspenseful, pregnant silences. Its sterner beauties yield raptures Volodos' well-meaning Valentine doesn't even hint at.

The latest (and penultimate) volume of Uchida's Schubert project, like Volodos' CD, pairs master Schubert (the six *Moments Musicaux*) with an earlier (though not juvenile) sonata, the E-flat Major, D. 568. There the comparison ends. Uchida's accounts of both

works reward repeat listenings; and a few spins of her E-flat sonata made clear why she has included it among the keepers. (She's not recording the complete Schubert piano works.) She doesn't just lend this middle-period sonata stature; she painstakingly mines and reveals its riches. Her *Moments Musicaux* are marvels of musical miniaturism, each one fully, deeply, individually characterized.

I've sometimes thought that Schubert's really early sonatas answer the question whether Schubert was gay with a ringing affirmative. Volodos' almost excessively precious version of the E Major only adds weight to the argument. The pianist is truly in his element only in the Liszt, transcriptions being among his demonstrated strengths.

The Russian music CD not to miss is the pairing of Giya Kancheli's *Styx* and Sophia Gubaidulina's *Viola Concerto* in DG's invaluable 20/21 series. Both works were written for and are performed by the incomparable Russian violist Yuri Bashmet. *Styx* is the more disturbing of these two brooding compositions, addressing nothing less than the transition from life to death (across the river Styx) through the haunting "voice" of Bashmet's viola — and a potentially deployed chorus in addition to full orchestra. The highly involving piece proves ultimately uplifting. Gubaidulina's characteristically mystical concerto exploits the full range of the viola's capabilities, but, like a latter-day offspring of Berg's *Violin Concerto*, hews to the otherworldly and becomes similarly transporting. The tireless Valery Gergiev leads his Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra in what is arguably his deepest and most authoritative conducting on disc to date.

These are incontestably important new pieces that MTT has the guts, chops, and forces to perform. Maybe at the next Russian Festival. ▼

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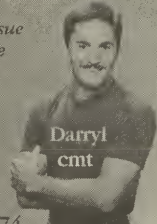
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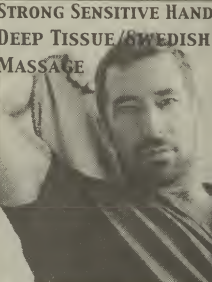
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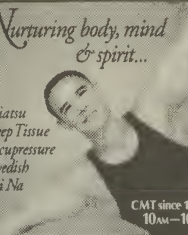
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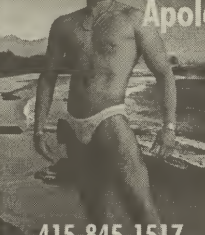
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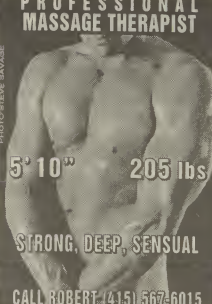
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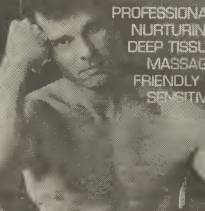
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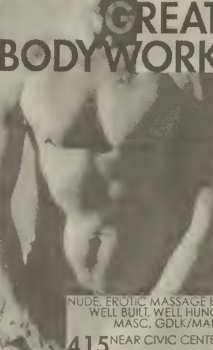
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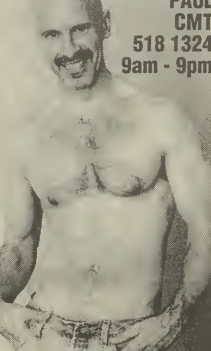
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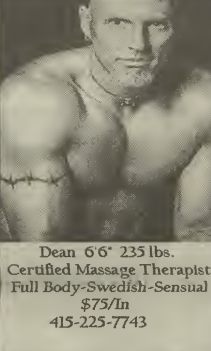
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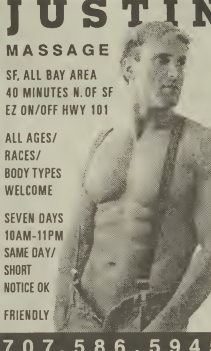
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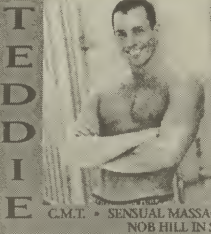
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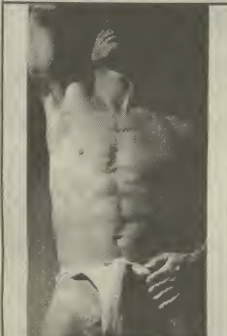
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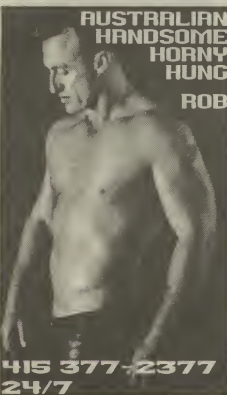
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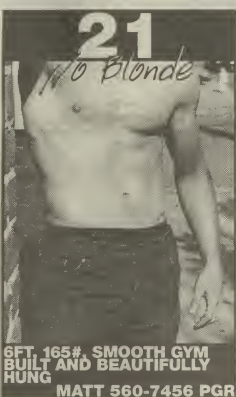
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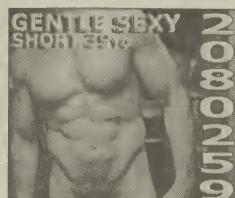
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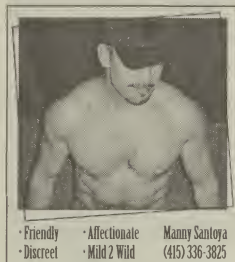
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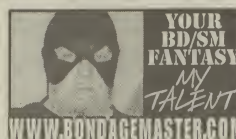
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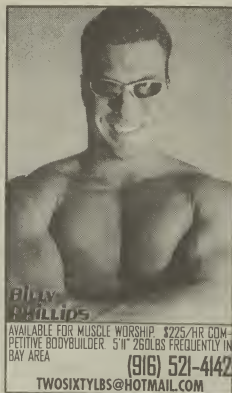
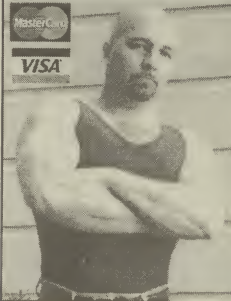
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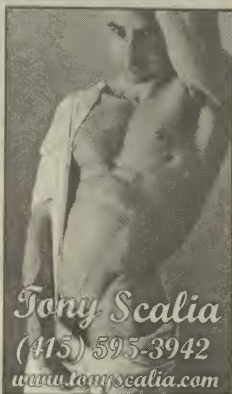
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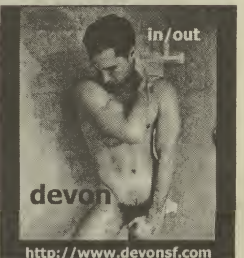
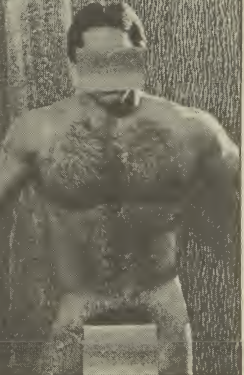
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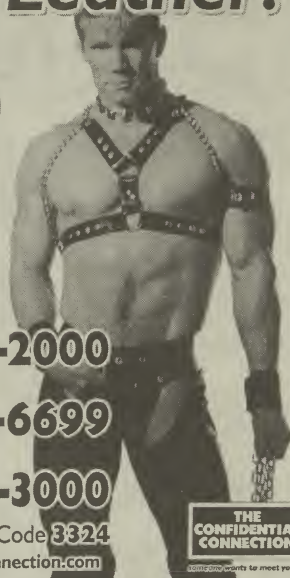
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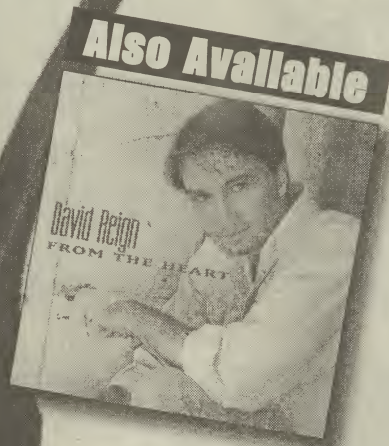
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